Readings from the Old Testament

The readings for the funeral liturgy will be chosen from these lists. Choose one reading from the Old Testament and one reading from the New Testament. Readings are available in Spanish upon request.

Readings from the Old Testament

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.
In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.
But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.
Thus he made atonement for the dead
that they might be freed from this sin.

The word of the Lord

Job 19:1, 23-27a

A reading from the Book of Job

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

Wisdom 3:1-9 (short form, 3:1-6, 9)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

(Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading)

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 his elect.

The word of the Lord

Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not
with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the venerable crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported–
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.
Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord

Isaiah 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!"

The word of the Lord

Lamentations 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.

Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and heard this word of the Lord:
At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS (Additional Readings)

SIRACH 51:8-12

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Then I remembered the mercies of the LORD,

his acts of kindness through ages past;

For he saves those who take refuge in him,

and rescues them from every evil.

So I raised my voice from the grave;

from the gates of Sheol I cried for help.

I called out: LORD, you are my Father,

my champion, my savior!

Do not abandon me in time of trouble,

in the midst of storms and dangers.

I will always praise your name

and remember you in prayer!

Then the LORD heard my voice,
and listened to my appeal.

He saved me from every evil

and preserved me in time of trouble.

For this reason I thank and praise him;

I bless the name of the LORD.

The word of the Lord

ISAIAH 35:1-4, 10

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The wilderness and the parched land will exult; the Arabah will rejoice and bloom-

Like the crocus it shall bloom abundantly, and rejoice with joyful song.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen hands that are feeble, make firm knees that are weak,

Say to the fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, he comes with vindication;

With divine recompense he comes to save you.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy; They meet with joy and gladness,

sorrow and mourning flee away.

The word of the Lord

ISAIAH 41:8-10,13

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen,
offspring of Abraham my friend—
You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth
and summoned from its far-off places,
To whom I have said, You are my servant;
I chose you, I have not rejected you—
Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God.
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
For I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand;
It is I who say to you, Do not fear, I will help you.

The word of the Word

ISAIAH 43:1-3a, 4

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

But now, thus says the LORD,
who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through waters, I will be with you;
through rivers, you shall not be swept away.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned,
nor will flames consume you.

For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior.
Because you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you and nations in exchange for your life.

The word of the Lord

ISAIAH 61:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me;

He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives,

release to the prisoners,

To announce a year of favor from the LORD

and a day of vindication by our God;

To comfort all who mourn;

to place on those who mourn in Zion

a diadem instead of ashes,

To give them oil of gladness instead of mourning,

a glorious mantle instead of a faint spirit.

The word of the Lord

ISAIAH 65: 17-19, 21-22

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

See, I am creating new heavens and a new earth;
The former things shall not be remembered nor come to mind.

Instead, shout for joy and be glad forever in what I am creating.
Indeed, I am creating Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight;
I will rejoice in Jerusalem and exult in my people.

No longer shall the sound of weeping be heard there, or the sound of crying;
They shall build houses and live in them, they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit; they shall not build and others live there; they shall not plant and others eat.

As the years of a tree, so the years of my people; and my chosen ones shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

The word of the Lord

PROVERBS 31: 10-12, 17-18, 20, 25-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond jewels is her value.
Her husband trusts her judgment; he does not lack income.
She brings him profit, not loss, all the days of her life. She girds herself with strength; she exerts her arms with vigor. She enjoys the profit from her dealings; her lamp is never extinguished at night. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom; kindly instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband, too, praises her:
"Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all." Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Acclaim her for the work of her hands, and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord

EZEKIEL 34:11-16

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

For thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I myself will search for my sheep and examine them.

As a shepherd examines his flock while he himself is among his scattered sheep, so will I examine my sheep? I will deliver them from every place where they were scattered on the day of dark clouds.

I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and every inhabited place in the land.

In good pastures I will pasture them; on the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down on good grazing ground; in rich pastures they will be pastured on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest—oracle of the Lord GOD.

The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal; but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd them in judgment.

The word of the Lord

EZEKIEL 37: 1-5, 9, 12-14

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the broad valley. It was filled with bones.

He made me walk among them in every direction. So many lay on the surface of the valley! How dry they were!

He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come back to life? “Lord GOD,” I answered, “you alone know that.”

Then he said to me: Prophesy over these bones, and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Listen! I will make breath enter you so you may come to life.

Then he said to me: Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man! Say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: From the four winds come, O breath, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life.

Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel.

You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have spoken; I will do it—oracle of the LORD.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to give birth, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sow; a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What profit have workers from their toil?
I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be busied about.
God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The word of the Lord ALT OT - 10