



Readings for Funerals

Requiem Mass or Funeral Service

Old Testament Readings

A reading from the book of Wisdom

3:1-9

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like annihilation; but they are in peace. If they experienced punishment as men see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be. God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him; he has tested them like gold in a furnace and accepted them as a holocaust. When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out; as sparks run through the stubble, so will they. They shall judge nations, rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king for ever. They who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the book of Wisdom

4:7-15

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest. Length of days is not what makes age honourable, nor number of years the true measure of life; understanding, this is man's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age. He has sought to please God, so God has loved him; as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up. He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding or treachery seduce his soul; for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade, and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart. Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life; his soul being pleasing to the Lord, he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him. Yet people look on, uncomprehending; it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord, and protection, his holy ones.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

25: 6-9

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation: the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

61: 1-3

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord, a day of vengeance for our God to comfort all those who mourn and to give them for ashes a garland; for mourning robe the oil of gladness, for despondency, praise.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Readings

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth, I have now come to realise,' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men, and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:5-11

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God love us it that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

5:17-21

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous. When law came, it was to multiply the opportunities of falling, but however great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater; and so, just as sin reigned wherever there was death, so grace will reign to bring eternal life thanks to the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

6:3-9

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been realised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-35.37-39

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. There are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created things, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 14: 7-12

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others: if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life – it is the Lord who speaks – every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

5:1 6-10

We know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

We are always full of confidence then, when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 3: 20-21

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the first letter of St John 3: 1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the first letter of St John 3: 14-16

We have passed out of death and into life, and of this we can be sure because we love our brothers. If you refuse to love, you must remain dead; to hate your brother is to be a murderer, and murderers, as you know, do not have eternal life in them. This has taught us love – that he gave up his life for us; and we, too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse 14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say to me, 'Write down: Happy are those who die in the Lord! Happy indeed, the Spirit says; now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms

Psalm 28

Response: The Lord is my light and my help.

The Lord is my light and my help,
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life,
Before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **R.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
In the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **R.**

Psalm 114

**Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me. **R.**

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted,'
and when I said in my alarm:
'No man can be trusted.' **R.**

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I
you have loosened my bonds. **R.**

Psalm 22 (23)

**Response: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

Psalm 62

**Response: For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord, my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praises. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

You have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

Psalm 129

Response: Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **R.**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak. **R.**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **R.**

Psalm 142

Response: Lord, listen to my prayer.

Lord, listen to my prayer:
turn your ear to my appeal.
You are faithful, you are just; give answer.
Do not call your servant to judgement
for no one is just in your sight. **R.**

I remember the days that are past:
I ponder all your works.
I muse on what your hand has wrought
and to you I stretch out my hands. **R.**

Lord, make haste and give me answer:
for my spirit fails within me.
In the morning let me know your love
for I put my trust in you. **R.**

Teach me to do your will
for you, O Lord, are my God.
Let your good spirit guide me
in ways that are level and smooth. **R.**

Psalm 121

**Response: I rejoiced when I heard them say:
Let us go to God's house.**

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. **R.**

For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. **R.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' **R.**

For the love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. **R.**

Gospels

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How blessed are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Blessed those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Blessed those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Blessed the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Blessed the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Blessed the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:
whoever believes in me will never die. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 7:11-17

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up.' And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our homeland is in heaven,
and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for,
the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry. 'The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.' At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, 'Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out.' But they replied, 'There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.' They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us.' But he replied, 'I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.' So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we have died with Christ, then we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, then we shall reign with him. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 15:33-39;16: 1-6

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah.' Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died and he said, 'In truth, this man was a son of God.'

When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdalen, Mary the mother of James and Salome, brought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'there is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: but he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24: 13-16 28-35

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening,' they said, 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,
whoever believes in me will never die. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11: 17-21

On arriving at Bethany, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother,' said Jesus to her, 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

Yes, Lord, she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

It is my Father's will, says the Lord,
that whoever believes in the Son shall have eternal life,
and that I shall raise him up on the last day. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples. 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Requiem Mass / Funeral Service

Entrance Hymn

(Eulogy – Tribute)

Reading – from the Old or New Testament

Responsorial Psalm

Gospel Fr Atli

Homily

Bidding Prayers

*Offertory Hymn

Offertory Procession (optional)

Communion Hymn*

Final Commendation

(May the choirs of angels)

Recessional Hymn