

Suggested Scripture Readings for Christian Funerals

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27a For I know that my Redeemer lives

Isaiah 25:6-9 Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces

Isaiah 61:1-3 The Lord has anointed me... to bind up the brokenhearted

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 He will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom forever

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a; or 3:1-8 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Psalms

Psalms 23 The Lord is my shepherd

Psalms 34:1-10, 22 O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in Him

Psalms 42:1-7 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Psalms 46:1-7 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 90 Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Psalms 91:9-16 Under his wings you will find refuge

Psalms 118 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever

Psalms 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?

Psalms 130 My soul waits for the LORD, more than those who watch for the morning

Psalms 139:1-12 O LORD, you have searched me and known me... even the darkness is not dark to you

Psalms 143 Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust

Psalms 149 Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful

New Testament Letters

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation

Romans 5:1-11 Reconciled to God by Christ's death

Romans 5:17-21 Through Adam came sin and through Christ comes justification

Romans 8 The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Romans 9 It depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy

Romans 14:7-9 Accepting diversity in the community of faith (14:1-12)

1 Corinthians 15:12-26 Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died (15:12-20)

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 or 55-58 Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Living by faith

Ephesians 1:11-23 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places

Philippians 3:20-21 Christ will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

2 Timothy 4:6-7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith

Hebrews 13:6-8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever

Hebrews 13:14-16 We are looking for the city that is to come

1 Peter 1:3-9 New birth into a living hope through the resurrection

1 John 3:1-3 We are God's children

Revelation 7:9-17 The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb

Revelation 14:13 Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord

Revelation 21:2-5a or 21:1-7 A new heaven and a new earth

New Testament Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12 Blessed are the poor in spirit

Matthew 11:25-30 Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest

Matthew 24:1-13 The one who endures to the end will be saved

Luke 6:20-31 Jesus speaks blessings and woes

Luke 12:35-40 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat

Luke 23:39-43 Today you will be with me in paradise

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son

John 5:24-29 The hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live

John 6:37-40 All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day

John 10:1-5 Jesus the Good Shepherd

John 11:21-27 The raising of Lazarus: I am the resurrection and the life

John 11:32-44 The raising of Lazarus

John 12:23-36 Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit

John 14:1-6 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. Christ the way, the truth, and life

Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, The Resurrection of Jesus