

# FUNERAL READINGS

We invite you to reflect on the following Scripture passages and **select one** reading from each:

- the **Old Testament [OT1-OT8]**,
- the **New Testament [NT1-NT10]**,
- and the **Gospels [G1-G8]**.

Other Scripture passages can be presented to the priest for approval. Non-Scripture readings cannot be read in place of these readings but could be used in the Mass program.

As you have your readings selected, please choose members of your family or friends who feel comfortable reading in public or are readers at their parishes to read at the Funeral Mass.

You will need to choose **three readers** (for Old Testament Reading, New Testament Reading, and Prayer of the Faithful – selected separately). The Gospel reading is proclaimed by the priest or deacon. There will be a binder placed on the ambo (lectern) with the readings that you have selected.

## **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 be born 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 sew;  
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.**

[OT2] Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23

## **A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

**God did not make death,  
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.  
For he fashioned all things that they might have being,  
and the creatures of the world are wholesome;  
There is not a destructive drug among them  
nor any domain of Hades on earth.  
For righteousness is undying.  
For God formed us to be imperishable;  
the image of his own nature he made us.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

**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.**

**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 hoary 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.**

[OT5] Wisdom 5:15-16

## **A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

**The righteous live forever,  
and in the Lord is their recompense,  
and the thought of them is with the Most High.  
Therefore shall they receive the splendid crown,  
the beautiful diadem, from the hand of the Lord,  
For he will shelter them with his right hand,  
and protect them with his arm.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A Reading from the Book of Sirach**

**The number of their days seems great**

**if it reaches a hundred years.**

**Like a drop of water from the sea and a grain of sand,**

**so are these few years among the days of eternity.**

**That is why the Lord is patient with them**

**and pours out his mercy on them.**

**He sees and understands that their death is wretched,**

**and so he forgives them all the more.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

[OT7] 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.**



[OT8] Isaiah 43:1-3a

## **A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

**But now, thus says the Lord,**

**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.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:**

**“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.**

**Rather, in every nation whoever fears him**

**and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.**

**You know the word that he sent to the Israelites**

**as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ,**

**who is Lord of all.**

**He commissioned us to preach to the people**

**and testify that he is the one appointed by God**

**as judge of living and the dead.**

**To him all the prophets bear witness,**

**that everyone who believes in him**

**will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Hope does not disappoint,  
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

**For Christ, while we were still helpless,  
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.**

**Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,  
though perhaps for a good person  
one might even find courage to die.**

**But God proves his love for us  
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.**

**How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,  
will we be saved through him from the wrath.**

**Indeed, if, while we were enemies,  
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,  
how much more, once reconciled,  
will we be saved by his life.**

**Not only that,  
but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have now received reconciliation.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

**He did not spare his own Son**

**but handed him over for us all,**

**will he not also give us everything else along with him?**

**Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?**

**It is God who acquits us.**

**Who will condemn?**

**It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,**

**who also is at the right hand of God,**

**who indeed intercedes for us.**

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

**Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,**

**or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?**

**No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly**

**through him who loved us.**

**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,**

**nor angels, nor principalities,**

**nor present things, nor future things,**

**nor powers, nor height, nor depth,**

**nor any other creature will be able to separate us**

**from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**No one lives for oneself,  
and no one dies for oneself.**

**For if we live, we live for the Lord,  
and if we die, we die for the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.**

**For this is why Christ died and came to life,  
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.**

**Why then do you judge your brother?**

**Or you, why do you look down on your brother?**

**For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;  
for it is written:**

**"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."**

**So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

**For since death came through a man,  
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.**

**For just as in Adam all die,  
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,  
but each one in proper order:**

**Christ the firstfruits;  
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;  
then comes the end,  
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.**

**For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.**

**The last enemy to be destroyed is death,  
for “he subjected everything under his feet.”**

**But when it says that everything has been subjected,  
it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.**

**When everything is subjected to him,  
then the Son himself will also be subjected  
to the one who subjected everything to him,  
so that God may be all in all.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,  
should be destroyed,  
we have a building from God,  
a dwelling not made with hands,  
eternal in heaven.**

**We are always courageous,  
although we know that while we are at home in the body  
we are away from the Lord,  
for we walk by faith, not by sight.**

**Yet we are courageous,  
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.**

**Therefore, we aspire to please him,  
whether we are at home or away.**

**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,  
so that each may receive recompense,  
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Our citizenship is in heaven,  
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**He will change our lowly body  
to conform with his glorified Body  
by the power that enables him also  
to bring all things into subjection to himself.**

**The word of the Lord.**



**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians**

**We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
about those who have fallen asleep,  
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.**

**For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,  
so too will God, through Jesus,  
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.**

**Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,  
that we who are alive,  
who are left until the coming of the Lord,  
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

**For the Lord himself, with a word of command,  
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,  
will come down from heaven,  
and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

**Then we who are alive, who are left,  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds  
to meet the Lord in the air.**

**Thus we shall always be with the Lord.**

**Therefore, console one another with these words.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy**

**For I am already being poured out like a libation,  
and the time of my departure is at hand.**

**I have competed well; I have finished the race;  
I have kept the faith.**

**From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,  
which the Lord, the just judge,  
will award to me on that day,  
and not only to me,  
but to all who have longed for his appearance.**

**But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength,  
so that through me the proclamation might be  
completed and all the Gentiles might hear it.**

**And I was rescued from the lion's mouth.**

**The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat  
and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.**

**To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Book of Revelation**

**I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.  
The former heaven and the former earth has passed away,  
and the sea was no more.  
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.  
He will dwell with them and they will be his people  
and God himself will always be with them as their God.  
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,  
and there shall be no more death or mourning,  
wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.”  
The One who sat on the throne said,  
“Behold, I make all things new.  
I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the beginning and the end.  
To the thirsty I will give a gift  
from the spring of life-saving water.  
The victor will inherit these gifts,  
and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.”**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,  
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.**

**He began to teach them, saying:**

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.**

**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.**

**Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.**

**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.**

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

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**At that time Jesus answered:**

**“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
for although you have hidden these things  
from the wise and the learned  
you have revealed them to the childlike.**

**Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.**

**All things have been handed over to me by my Father.**

**No one knows the Son except the Father,  
and no one knows the Father except the Son  
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.**

**“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.**

**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am meek and humble of heart;  
and you will find rest for yourselves.**

**For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

**Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain,  
and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.**

**As he drew near to the gate of the city,  
a man who had died was being carried out,  
the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.**

**A large crowd from the city was with her.**

**When the Lord saw her,  
he was moved with pity for her and said to her,  
“Do not weep.”**

**He stepped forward and touched the coffin;  
at this the bearers halted,  
and he said, “Young man, I tell you, arise!”**

**The dead man sat up and began to speak,  
and Jesus gave him to his mother.**

**Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming,  
“A great prophet has arisen in our midst,”  
and “God has visited his people.”**

**This report about him spread through the whole of Judea  
and in all the surrounding region.**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

**That very day, the first day of the week,  
two of the disciples of Jesus were going  
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,  
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.  
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,  
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,  
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.  
As they approached the village to which they were going,  
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.  
But they urged him, "Stay with us,  
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."  
So he went in to stay with them.  
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,  
he took bread, said the blessing,  
broke it, and gave it to them.  
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,  
but he vanished from their sight.  
Then they said to each other,  
"Were not our hearts burning within us  
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"  
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem  
where they found gathered together  
the Eleven and those with them, who were saying,  
"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"  
Then the two recounted  
what had taken place on the way  
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:**

**“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word  
and believes in the one who has sent me  
has eternal life and will not come to condemnation,  
but has passed from death to life.**

**Amen, amen, I say to you, 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.**

**For just as the Father has life in himself,  
so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself.**

**And he gave him power to exercise judgment,  
because he is the Son of Man.**

**Do not be amazed at this,  
because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs  
will hear his voice and will come out,  
those who have done good deeds  
to the resurrection of life,  
but those who have done wicked deeds  
to the resurrection of condemnation.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus  
had already been in the tomb for four days.**

**Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.**

**Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary  
to comfort them about their brother.**

**When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,  
she went to meet him;  
but Mary sat at home.**

**Martha said to Jesus,  
“Lord if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died.**

**But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,  
God will give you.”**

**Jesus said to her,  
“Your brother will rise.”**

**Martha said to him,  
“I know that he will rise,  
in the resurrection on the last day.”**

**Jesus told her,  
“I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.**

**Do you believe this?**

**She said to him, “Yes, Lord.**

**I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,  
the one who is coming into the world.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.**

**Amen, amen, I say to you,**

**unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,**

**it remains just a grain of wheat;**

**but if it dies, it produces much fruit.**

**Whoever loves his life will lose it,**

**and whoever hates his life in this world**

**will preserve it for eternal life.**

**Whoever serves me must follow me,**

**and where I am, there also will my servant be.**

**The Father will honor whoever serves me.”**

**“I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?**

**‘Father, save me from this hour’?**

**But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.**

**Father, glorify your name.”**

**Then, a voice came from heaven,**

**“I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

[G8] John 14:1-6

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**“Do not let your hearts be troubled.**

**You have faith in God; have faith also in me.**

**In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.**

**If there were not,**

**would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?**

**And if I go and prepare a place for you,**

**I will come back again and take you to myself,**

**so that where I am you may also be.**

**Where I am going you know the way.”**

**Thomas said to him,**

**“Master, we do not know where you are going;**

**how can we know the way?”**

**Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.**

**No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**