

Suggested Scripture Readings for Christian Funerals

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27a

I know that my Redeemer lives and I shall see God

Isaiah 25:6-9

The banquet of the LORD

Isaiah 40:28-31

Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength

Isaiah 43:1-3a

I have called you by name, you are mine.

Isaiah 61:1-3

Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Great is the LORD'S faithfulness

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom

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 24

They shall receive a blessing from the God of their salvation

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD

Psalms 42:1-7

My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

Psalms 46:1-7

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 90

Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants.

Psalms 91:9-16

On eagle's wings – assurance of God's protection.

Psalms 103

The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting

Psalms 118

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.

Psalms 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD....

Psalms 130

My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning

Psalms 139:1-12

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

Psalms 143

Lord, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness.

Psalms 145

The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds

Psalms 149

Sing the praise of the LORD in the congregation 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

Life in the Spirit

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

Nothing can separate us from God's love

Romans 9

Future glory

Romans 14:7-9

Accepting diversity in the community of faith

1 Corinthians 15:12-26

Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 or 55-58

Death is swallowed up in victory

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Living by faith

Ephesians 1:11-23

God raised Christ from the dead and made him head over all the church

Philippians 3:20-21

Jesus will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The dead in Christ will rise

2 Timothy 4:6-7
Hebrews 13:6-8
Hebrews 13:14-16
1 Peter 1:3-9
1 John 3:1-3
Revelation 7:9-17
Revelation 14:13
Revelation 21:2-5a or 21:1-7

*I have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith.
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever
We are looking for the city that is to come
New birth to a living hope through the resurrection
We are God's children
The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb
Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord
A new heaven and a new earth.*

New Testament Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12
Matthew 11:25-30
Matthew 24:1-13
Luke 6:20-31
Luke 12:22-32
Luke 23:39-43
John 3:16
John 5:24-29
John 6:37-40

*Blessed are the poor in spirit
The yoke of discipleship
The one who endures to the end will be saved
Jesus speaks blessings and woes
God will give you the treasure of the kingdom
You will be with me in paradise
God gave his Son for the life of the world
Any who hear my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life
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
John 11:21-27
John 11:32-44
John 12:23-36

*Jesus the Good Shepherd
The raising of Lazarus: I am the resurrection and the life
The raising of Lazarus
Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains alone;
but if it dies it bears much fruit
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; Christ the way,
the truth, and the life.*

John 14:1-6

The Resurrection of Jesus

Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20