

Suggested Scripture Readings for the Burial of the Dead

Old Testament Reading

Job 19.23-27a	<i>I know that my Redeemer lives and I shall see God</i>
Isaiah 25.6-9	<i>The banquet of the LORD</i>
Isaiah 61.1-3	<i>Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden (61.1-4, 8-11)</i>
*Lamentations 3.22-26, 31-33	<i>Great is the LORD's faithfulness</i>
Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18	<i>The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom</i>
Wisdom of Solomon 3.1-9	<i>The righteous are with God</i>

Psalms

+Psalm 23	<i>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; (23.4)</i>
Psalm 24	<i>They shall receive a blessing from the God of their salvation (24.5)</i>
Psalm 34.1-10,22	<i>Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD. (34.9)</i>
Psalm 42.1-7	<i>My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? (42.2)</i>
Psalm 46.1-7	<i>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (46.4)</i>
+Psalm 90	<i>Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants. (90.13)</i>
+Psalm 118	<i>Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD. (118.19)</i>
Psalm 121	<i>Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep; (121.4)</i>
+Psalm 130	<i>My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning (130.5)</i>
Psalm 143	<i>LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness.(143.1)</i>
Psalm 149	<i>Sing the praise of the LORD in the congregation of the faithful (149.1)</i>

New Testament Reading

Romans 5.1-11	<i>Reconciled to God by Christ's death</i>
Romans 5.17-21	<i>Through Adam came sin and through Christ comes justification</i>
Romans 8.31-35, 37-39	<i>Nothing can separate us from God's love (8.26-39)</i>
+Romans 14.7-9	<i>Accepting diversity in the community of faith (14.1-12)</i>
1 Corinthians 15.12-26	<i>Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died (15.12-20)</i>
1 Corinthians 15.51-57	<i>Death is swallowed up in victory</i>
Ephesians 1.11-23	<i>God raised Christ from the dead and made him head over all the church</i>
Philippians 3.20-21	<i>Jesus will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body</i>
1 Thessalonians 4.13-18	<i>The dead in Christ will rise</i>
1 Peter 1.3-9	<i>New birth to a living hope through the resurrection</i>
*1 John 3.1-3	<i>We are God's children</i>
Revelation 7.9-17	<i>The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb</i>
+Revelation 14.13	<i>Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord</i>
Revelation 21.1-7	<i>A new heaven and a new earth</i>

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5.1-12

*Matthew 11.25-30

Matthew 24.1-13

Luke 6.20-31

Luke 12.35-40

Luke 23.39-43

John 5.24-29

*John 6.37-40

John 11.21-27

John 11.32-44

John 12.23-36

John 14.1-6

Blessed are the poor in spirit

The yoke of discipleship (11.16-19, 25-30)

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

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

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 (committal)

Christ the way, the truth, and life

The Resurrection of Jesus can be found at Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20.

For more choices, consider texts for the Season, Festival or Commemoration, or the Revised Common Lectionary.

*appropriate for the burial of a child

+appropriate for the processions

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