

Scripture Readings For Funerals



Holy Family Church

23 Forest Drive

Nazareth, PA 18064

When a loved one dies a member of our Lazarus Ministry will contact you to plan the funeral mass. You may help to choose the readings and the music. The readings are offered are in this booklet so that you may look them over before you meet. One Old Testament Reading and one New Testament reading should be chosen. You may choose music from the list of songs that our Paradise Choir sings. The song titles are also listed in this pamphlet.

Please, when you have a eulogy, use your time at the funeral home and give the eulogy there. Because it is not a part of the Mass, eulogys will not be permitted during the funeral.

Please call the parish office if you have any questions/concerns. (610) 759-0870

Old Testament Readings (1st Reading)

Isaiah 41: 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth
and summoned from its far-off places,
You whom I have called my servant,
whom I have chosen and will not cast off.

Fear not, I am with you;
be not dismayed; I am your God.
I will strengthen you, and help you,
and uphold you with my right hand of justice.

Yes, all shall be put to shame and disgrace
who vent their anger against you;
Those shall perish and come to nought
who offer resistance.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 43:1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

But now, thus says the LORD,
who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel:
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through the water, I will be with you;
in the rivers you shall not drown.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned;
the flames shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in return for you.

Because you are precious in my eyes
and glorious, and because I love you,
I give men in return for you
and peoples in exchange for your life.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 49:8,14-16

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:
In a time of favor I answer you,
on the day of salvation I help you,
To restore the land
and allot the desolate heritages,
But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget, I will never forget you.
See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name;
your walls are ever before me.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

For just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
And do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
Giving seed to him who sows
and bread to him who eats,

So shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
It shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

Yes, in joy you shall depart,
in peace you shall be brought back;
Mountains and hills shall break out in song before you,
and all the trees of the countryside shall clap their hands.

In place of the thornbush, the cypress shall grow,
instead of nettles, the myrtle.
This shall be to the LORD'S renown,
an everlasting imperishable sign.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 58:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

If you bestow your bread on the hungry
and satisfy the afflicted;
Then light shall rise for you in the darkness,
and the gloom shall become for you like midday;

Then the LORD will guide you always
and give you plenty even on the parched land.
He will renew your strength,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring whose water never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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.

The Word of the Lord

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But 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.

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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Proverbs 31: 10-31

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with skillful hands.
Like merchant ships,
she secures her provisions from afar.
She rises while it is still night,
and distributes food to her household.
She picks out a field to purchase;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
She is girt about with strength,
and sturdy are her arms.
She enjoys the success of her dealings;
at night her lamp is undimmed.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
She fears not the snow for her household;
all her charges are doubly clothed.
She makes her own coverlets;
fine linen and purple are her clothing.
Her husband is prominent at the city gates
as he sits with the elders of the land.
She makes garments and sells them,
and stocks the merchants with belts.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom,
and on her tongue is kindly counsel.
She watches the conduct of her household,
and eats not her food in idleness.
Her children rise up and praise her;
her husband, too, extols her:
"Many are the women of proven worth,
but you have excelled them all."
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

Sirach 2:1-9

A reading from the book of Sirach

My son, when you come to serve the LORD,
prepare yourself for trials.

Be sincere of heart and steadfast,
undisturbed in time of adversity.

Cling to him, forsake him not;
thus will your future be great.

Accept whatever befalls you,
in crushing misfortune be patient;

For in fire gold is tested,
and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation.

Trust God and he will help you;
make straight your ways and hope in him.

You who fear the LORD, wait for his mercy,
turn not away lest you fall.

You who fear the LORD, trust him,
and your reward will not be lost.

You who fear the LORD, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings (2nd Reading)

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 5:10

A reading from the 2nd letter to the Corinthians

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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

The Word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

A Reading from the book of the Corinthians

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.

For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things.

At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.

So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first book of John

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 24-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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

For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

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, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power.

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.

Peter 1:3-9 (*Accompanies Wisdom 3:1-6,9*)

A Reading from the letter of St. Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of (your) faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Romans 6:3-9

A Reading from the letter to the Romans

Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

Romans 14:7-12

A Reading from the letter to the Romans

None of us 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 account of himself (to God).

The Word of the Lord.

Timothy 4:6-8

A Reading from the second letter 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.

The Word of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A Reading from the book of Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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.

Paradise Choir Funeral Songs (Choose 5)

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
Amazing Grace
Ave Maria (Howard) *choir*
Ave Maria (Schubert) *cantor*
Be Not Afraid
Because I Love You
Beyond the Sunset
Come to Me
Come Unto Me, All Who are Weary
Day by Day
Edelweiss Blessing
For All the Saints
For You are My God
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Heart of Jesus Hear
Here I am Lord
Hosea
How Great Thou Art
I Am the Bread of Life
I Have Loved You
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Jesus Dear, The Day is Over
Jesus, Dir Leb'ich (Jesus I Live For Thee)
Jesus, Remember Me
Just a Closer Walk With Thee
Just As I Am
Keep In Mind
Lead Me Home
Let There Be Peace On Earth
Like A Shepherd

Lord of All Hopefulness
Maria Zu Lieben
Nearer My God To Thee
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
On Eagle's Wings
One Bread, One Body
One Spirit, One Church
Only a Shadow
Panis Angelicus (Bread of the Angels)
Parent's Song (Father/Mother)
Prayer of Saint Francis
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Psalm 23 "I Shall Live in the House of the Lord"
Psalm 25 "To You O' Lord"
Saints of God
Shepherd of Souls
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
Song of Farewell "May the Choir of Angels"
Song of Farewell "Old 100th"
Song of the Body
Song of the Angels
Soon and Very Soon
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Strife is O'er
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
We are the Light of the World
We Remember
We Will Rise Again
You Are Mine
You Are Near
Yes I Shall Rise