

Funeral Scripture Readings

The following list of readings is from the Order of Christian Funerals, the official rite for funerals in Catholic churches in the United States. You may also have other readings that you would like to use for a funeral, but these are a good place to begin.

Old Testament Readings *(First Reading)*

2 Maccabees 12:43-46	He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.
Job 19:1, 23-27a	I know that my Vindicator lives.
Wisdom 3:1-9 (Short version: Wisdom 3:1-6, 9)	The souls of the just are in the hands of God.
Wisdom 4:7-15	The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.
Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9	He will destroy death forever.
Lamentations 3:17-26	It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.
Daniel 12:1-3	Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

Two additional possibilities that are not included in the funeral rite:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	There is an appointed time for everything. A time to be born, a time to die.
Proverbs 31:10 – 12, 25 – 31	When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.

New Testament Readings *(Second Reading and First Reading during Easter season)*

Acts 10:34-43 (Short version: Acts 10:34-36, 32-43)	He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.
Romans 5:5-11	Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him.
Romans 5:17-21	Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.
Romans 6:3-9 (Short version: 6:3-4, 8-9)	We too might live in newness of life.
Romans 8:14-23	We also groan within ourselves as we wait for ... redemption of our bodies.
Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39	What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12	Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (Short version: 1 Corinthians 15:20-23)	So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.
1 Corinthians 15:51-57	Death is swallowed up in victory.
2 Corinthians 4:14 - 5:1	What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10	We have a building from God, eternal in heaven. We walk by faith, not by sight.
Philippians 3:20-21	He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory...
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
2 Timothy 2:8-13	If we have died with him we shall also live with him.
1 John 3:1-2	We shall see him as he is.
1 John 3:14-16	We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.
Revelation 14:13	Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.
Revelation 20:1 - 21:1	The dead were judged according to their deeds.
Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7	There shall be no more death.

