

A GUIDE TO CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Scripture options for funerals

Old Testament Lessons

1. Job 19:23–27a
...for I know that my Redeemer lives...
2. Isaiah 25:6–9
...then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears...
3. Isaiah 35:3–10
...Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened...
4. Isaiah 40:1–11, 28–31
...Comfort, O Comfort my people..." In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD...
5. Isaiah 61:1–3
...The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me...to bring good news...
6. Lamentations 3:22–33
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases...
7. Ecclesiastes 3:1–8
For everything there is a season...

Psalms

1. Psalm 23
The LORD is my shepherd
2. Psalm 27
The LORD is my light and my salvation...
3. Psalm 42
As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God...
4. Psalm 46
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
5. Psalm 90
Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth...
6. Psalm 91
You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty...
7. Psalm 116:1–8, 15–19
I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications...
8. Psalm 118

- O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever...
9. Psalm 121
I lift my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD ...
10. Psalm 130
Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice!...
11. Psalm 139
O LORD you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up...
12. Psalm 143
Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness...

Gospel Texts

1. Matthew 11:25–30
Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
2. Matthew 25:31–40
The king will say, "Come you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation for the world;..."
3. Luke 12:22–27
Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these...
4. John 1:1–5
In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God...
5. John 3:16
For God so loved the world...
6. John 5:19–29
The hour is coming...when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it will live...
7. John 11:21–27
I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live...
8. John 14:1–6
In my Father's house are many dwelling places...

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Scripture options and Hymns

New Testament Lessons

1. Romans 5:1–11
Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...
2. Romans 5:17–21
...as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to...life for all.
3. Romans 8:14–19
...we are children of God...and joint heirs with Christ...if we suffer with him...we may also be glorified with him
4. Romans 8:24–28
We know that all things work together for good for those who love God...
5. Romans 8:31–39
Nothing separates us from the love of God...
6. 1 Corinthians 15:12–26
For since the death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being...
7. 2 Corinthians 4:15–5:10
...for we walk by faith, not by sight...
8. Philippians 2:5–11
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...
9. Philippians 3:7–16
...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on...
10. 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again...God will bring with him those who have died...
11. 1 Peter 1:3–9
By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Christ Jesus...
12. Revelation 7:9–17
...and there was a great multitude...standing before the Lamb...cried out in a loud voice...
13. Revelation 21:1–7
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...
14. Revelation 21:22–22:7
...and there will be no more night...for the LORD God will be their light...

Hymns for Funerals

These are suggested hymns; you are not limited to only those listed below.

- A Mighty Fortress..... ELW 504
- Amazing Grace ELW 779
- Beautiful Savior ELW 838
- Children of the Heavenly Father ELW 781
- How Great Thou Art..... ELW 856
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives..... ELW 619
- I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry ELW 732
- Jesus Christ is Risen Today..... ELW 365
- Jesus, Priceless Treasure ELW 775
- Lord of All Hopefulness..... ELW 765
- My Hope is Built on Nothing Less ELW 597
- My Faith Looks Up to Thee..... ELW 759
- Now Thank We All Our God ELW 840
- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ELW 858
- Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me..... ELW 623
- The Church's One Foundation..... ELW 654
- Thine Is the Glory..... ELW 376
- What A Friend We Have in Jesus..... ELW 742