

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS - FUNERALS

The Funeral Liturgy, whether it takes place during the Celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass or a Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, consists of four passages of Scripture. One passage comes from the Old Testament (the readings in this document), one from the Psalms, one from the New Testament (excluding the Gospels), and one from the Gospels. The priest celebrant will pick the Gospel Passage.

If the funeral takes place during the Easter Season, the first reading may be taken from the New Testament reading options instead of the Old Testament. It is exceedingly recommended to have the Responsorial Psalm sung, and the ordinary music ministers of the Church will know how this is done. If, for exceptional reasons, it is determined that the Responsorial Psalm will be read, the family may pick up to four (4) lectors. The **(1) First Reading**, the **(2) Responsorial Psalm** (if not sung), and **(3) Second Reading** are available to be read by the laity (non-ordained). The Gospel is reserved to the Priest or Deacon, and therefore will only be read by them. The **(4) petitions**, or prayers of the faithful may be read by a member of the Laity, unless a deacon is present. None of these are mandatory, but available options for members of the family and friends to take part in the liturgy.

The order of the readings are not to be changed and go as follows:

1. First Reading
2. Responsorial Psalm
3. Second Reading
4. Gospel Reading

It is *extremely recommended* that the lectors be Catholic, and also be a lector in the church, as they will more likely have a familiarity with the flow of the liturgy. The lector can use the following pages to practice the readings in advanced of the ceremony. *The lectors will NOT use the practice papers during the liturgy nor any electronic device. The readings and petitions will be in a binder for the liturgy.* The lectors should understand that they *only* read the parts in the black that appear on the following pages. No other words should be added or any words be removed. The readings are to be read as provided. No introductory or dismissal words should be added or subtracted.

If you have any questions, please contact the priest or deacon at your earliest convenience.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 1

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees *(Pause) 2 Maccabees 12:43-46*

Judas, the ruler of Israel,

took up a collection among all his soldiers,

amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,

which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,

inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;

for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,

it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward

that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,

it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead

that they might be freed from this sin. *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 2

A reading from the Book of Job *(Pause) Job 19:1, 23-27a*

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,

and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him;

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing. *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 3

A reading from the Book of Wisdom (*Pause*) *Wisdom 3:1-9*

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.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.

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 his elect. (*Pause*)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 4

A reading from the Book of Wisdom (*Pause*) *Wisdom 4:7-15*

The just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not
with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported—
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account. (*Pause*)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 5

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah *(Pause) Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9*

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the LORD for whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 6

A reading from the Book of Lamentations *(Pause)* *Lamentations 3:17-26*

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the LORD.

The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the LORD are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.

My portion is the LORD, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the LORD to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the LORD. *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS – OPTION 7

A reading from the book of the Prophet Daniel *(Pause)* *Daniel 12:1-3*

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and heard this word of the Lord:

At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;

It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.

At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever. *(Pause)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God