

Funeral Readings



I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die,
will live forever says the Lord.

John 11.25

Introduction.

Confronted with the mystery of death, human words are totally inadequate.
The only word that carries authority is the Word of God.

Our task is to let that word speak. At a time of loss, allow one's spirit to
drink them in, to savour them, and to feel the divine power in them.

This booklet offers a wide variety of readings that may help at this
difficult time.

“Thou hadst made us for thy self O Lord,
And our hearts shall not rest,
Until they rest in thee.”
(St. Augustine)

Responsorial Psalm

(Choose one)

1. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

*Those who are sowing in tears
Will sing when they reap.*

When the Lord delivered Sion from bondage.
It seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter.
On our lips there were songs. **R**

The heathens themselves said:
What marvels the Lord worked for them!
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
As streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
Will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
Carrying seed for the sowing;
They come back, they come back, full of song,
Carrying their sheaves. **R**

2. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

*The Lord is my light and my help:
Whom shall I fear?*

The Lord is the stronghold of my life:
Before whom shall I shrink? **R**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord.
For this I long.
To live in the house of the Lord
All the days of my life. **R**

Do not abandon or forsake me,
O God my help.
Though father and mother forsake me.
The Lord will receive me. **R**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
In the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord. **R**

3. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

*The Lord is my shepherd:
There is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my Shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path,
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness,
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff,
with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil,
my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell,
for ever and ever. **R**

4. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup:
it is you yourself who are my prize.
The lot marked out for me is my delight:
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me. **R**

I will bless the Lord who gives me Counsel
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad:
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let you beloved know decay. **R**

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at you right hand happiness forever. **R**

5. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

I will bless the Lord at all times.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on his lips:
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him,
to rescue them
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **R**

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted:
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R**

Many are the trials of the just
but from them all the Lord will rescue them.
He will keep guard over their bones,
not one of their bones shall be broken. **R**