

# Funeral Planning Resources

## Suggested Readings and Hymns

### Old Testament Readings

2 Samuel 12:15–23	<i>King David looks to the resurrection of his son</i>
1 Kings 17:17–24	<i>Elijah raises the widow's son</i>
2 Kings 4:18–37	<i>Elisha raises the Shunamite's son</i>
Job 5:6–7, 17–26	<i>Job's friend speaks of the Lord's wounding and healing</i>
Job 14:1–17	<i>Job speaks of his mortality</i>
Job 19:21–27	<i>Job confesses his faith in the resurrection</i>
Ecclesiastes 12:1–7	<i>Remember your Creator</i>
Isaiah 25:6–9	<i>The Lord God will swallow up death forever</i>
Isaiah 26:1–4, 19	<i>Your dead will live</i>
Isaiah 35:3–10	<i>Sorrow and sighing will flee away</i>
Isaiah 40:6–11	<i>He tends his flock like a shepherd</i>
Isaiah 40:27–31	<i>He gives strength to the weary</i>
Isaiah 43:1–3a, 25	<i>Fear not, you are mine</i>
Isaiah 46:3–4	<i>Even to your old age I will sustain you</i>
Isaiah 49:13–16	<i>I will not forget you</i>
Isaiah 53:1–12	<i>The man of sorrows</i>
Isaiah 57:1–2	<i>The righteous find rest</i>
Isaiah 61:1–3, 10	<i>To comfort all who mourn</i>
Isaiah 65:17–25	<i>New heavens and a new earth</i>
Jeremiah 31:15–17	<i>Rachel mourns for her children</i>
Lamentations 3:22–33	<i>His compassions never fail</i>
Daniel 12:1–3	<i>Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake</i>

### Epistle Readings

Romans 5:1–11	<i>Christ died for us</i>
Romans 5:17–21	<i>Justification brings life for all</i>
Romans 6:3–10	<i>Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection</i>
Romans 8:14–23	<i>We share in Christ's sufferings and glory</i>
Romans 8:31–39	<i>Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ</i>
Romans 14:7–9	<i>Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord</i>
1 Corinthians 15:20–26	<i>In Christ all will be made alive</i>
1 Corinthians 15:51–57	<i>Death is swallowed up in victory</i>
2 Corinthians 4:13–18	<i>The one who raised Jesus from the dead will raise us</i>
2 Corinthians 5:1–10	<i>Away from the body and at home with the Lord</i>
Philippians 3:8–11	<i>Knowing Christ and the power of his resurrection</i>
Philippians 3:20–21	<i>Our citizenship is in heaven</i>
Colossians 3:1–4	<i>You have been raised with Christ</i>
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18	<i>The dead in Christ will rise first</i>
2 Timothy 2:8–13	<i>If we died with him, we will also live with him</i>
2 Timothy 4:6–8	<i>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race</i>
Hebrews 2:14–18	<i>By his death he destroyed death</i>

Hebrews 4:6–11	<i>The Sabbath rest of God</i>
Hebrews 11:1–2, 13–16	<i>Aliens and strangers on earth</i>
Hebrews 12:1–3	<i>Let us fix our eyes on Jesus</i>
Hebrews 13:12–14, 20–21	<i>The God of peace who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus</i>
James 4:13–17	<i>What is your life?</i>
1 Peter 1:3–9	<i>A living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ</i>
1 John 3:1–2	<i>We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is</i>
Revelation 7:9–17	<i>Standing before the throne in front of the Lamb</i>
Revelation 14:13	<i>Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord</i>
Revelation 19:4–9	<i>Blessed are those invited to the wedding of the Lamb</i>
Revelation 21:1–7	<i>A new heaven and a new earth</i>
Revelation 22:1–5	<i>The Lord God will give them light</i>

### Gospel Readings

Matthew 2:13–20	<i>Herod tried to kill Jesus and murders the Holy Innocents</i>
Matthew 5:1–12	<i>God's saints are blessed</i>
Matthew 11:25–30	<i>Rest for the weary</i>
Matthew 18:1–5, 10	<i>Unless you become like little children</i>
Matthew 25:1–13	<i>Jesus, the heavenly bridegroom comes</i>
Matthew 25:31–40	<i>Come, take your inheritance prepared for you</i>
Matthew 27:45–54, 28:1–6	<i>Jesus' death and resurrection</i>
Mark 5:35–43	<i>Jesus raises the daughter of Jairus</i>
Mark 10:13–16	<i>Little children are brought to Jesus</i>
Mark 15:33–39, 16:1–6	<i>Jesus' death and resurrection</i>
Luke 2:25–32	<i>Lord, let your servant go in peace</i>
Luke 2:36–28	<i>Anna spoke to all looking forward to the redemption</i>
Luke 7:11–17	<i>Jesus raises the young man of Nain</i>
Luke 12:16–21	<i>This very night your life will be demanded from you</i>
Luke 16:19–31	<i>The angels carried him to Abraham's side</i>
Luke 23:33, 39–43	<i>Today you will be with me in paradise</i>
Luke 23:44–49, 24:1–6a	<i>Jesus' death and resurrection</i>
John 3:16–18	<i>God so loved the world</i>
John 4:46–53	<i>Come down before my child dies</i>
John 5:24–30	<i>He has crossed over from death to life</i>
John 6:27–40	<i>I will raise him up at the last day</i>
John 6:51–58	<i>Whoever eats my flesh has eternal life</i>
John 10:11–16	<i>I am the Good Shepherd</i>
John 10:27–30	<i>I give them eternal life</i>
John 11:17–27	<i>I am the resurrection and the life</i>
John 11:32–45	<i>Lazarus, come out!</i>
John 12:23–28	<i>Who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life</i>
John 14:1–6	<i>I am the way, the truth, and the life</i>
John 19:17–18, 25–30	<i>Jesus' death</i>

## Hymns

*The singing of hymns at a funeral provides a strong testimony to the victory over death that Christ won through His death and resurrection.*

438-A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth  
878-Abide With Me  
477-Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven  
607-All Who Believe and Are Baptized  
744-Amazing Grace  
633-At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing  
467-Awake, My Heart, with Gladness  
537-Beautiful Savior  
574-Before the Throne of God Above  
676-Behold a Host Arrayed in White  
725-Children of the Heavenly Father  
458-Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands  
420-Christ, the Life of All the Living  
677-For All the Saints  
742-For Me to Live Is Jesus  
607-From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee  
594-God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It  
801-How Great Thou Art  
468-I am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives  
740-I Am Jesus' Little Lamb  
461-I know that My Redeemer Lives  
486-If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death  
724-If God Himself Be for Me  
745-In God, My Faithful God  
938-In Peace and Joy I Now Depart  
755-In the Very Midst of Life  
672-Jerusalem the Golden  
741-Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense  
490-Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won  
743-Jesus Priceless Treasure  
484-Make Songs of Joy  
880-Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow  
449, 450-O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

679-Oh, How Blest Are You Whose Toils Are Ended  
759-This Body in the Grave We Lay  
482-This Joyful Eastertide  
508-The Day is Surely Drawing Near  
709-The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
710-The Lord's My Shepherd I'll Not Want  
758-The Will of God Is Always Best  
516-Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying  
760-What God Ordains Is Always Good  
770-What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
730-What Is the World to Me  
764-When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love  
476-Who Are You Who Walk In Sorrow  
756-Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me  
483-With High Delight Let Us Unite

*During Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasonal hymns such as the following may also be appropriate:*

334-O Lord, How Shall I Meet You  
348-The King Shall Come  
347-Comfort, Comfort Ye My People  
355-O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide  
386-Now Sing We, Now Rejoice  
376-Once in Royal David's City  
364, 365-Away in a Manger  
402-The Only Son from Heaven  
397-As with Gladness Men of Old

*Especially helpful at any funeral are most any Easter hymns. They express the great joy of Christ's resurrection and victory over death. Through Baptism the hope of the resurrection is now a Christian's great hope in the face of death as well.*