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Sample Readings for Funeral Booklets

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CHOICES FOR THE FIRST READING & RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Example 1

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

Then Job answered,
"O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (psalm 27)

Response:

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the life

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? **(Response.)**

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,

and to inquire in his temple. **(Response.)**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!

"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"

Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. **(Response.)**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord! **(Response.)**

Example 2

A reading from the book of Wisdom (3:1-9)

The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little,
they will receive great good,

because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,

because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 116)

Response

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

The Lord protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me. **(Response.)**

I kept my faith, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
I said in my consternation,
"Everyone is a liar." **(Response.)**

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant;
You have loosed my bonds. **(Response.)**

Example 3

A reading from the book of Wisdom (4:7-15)

The righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.
For old age is not honoured for length of time,
or measured by number of years;
but understanding is grey hair for anyone,
and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There were some who pleased God and were loved by him,
and while living among sinners were taken up.
They were caught up so that evil might not change their
understanding
or guile deceive their souls.
For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.
Being perfected in a short time,
they fulfilled long years;
for their souls were pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness.
Yet the peoples saw and did not understand,
or take such a thing to heart,
that God's grace and mercy are with his elect,
and that he watches over his holy ones.
This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 23)

Response

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

(Response.)

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff--
they comfort me.

(Response.)

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

(Response.)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

(Response.)

Example 4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will make for all peoples a feast of rich food,
a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow,
of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God;
we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
This is the word of the Lord.

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my whole life long.

(Response.)

Example 5

A reading from the book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

My soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord."
The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 25)

Response:

Those who hope in you, O Lord, shall not be disappointed.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
According to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord! **(Response.)**

Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.

Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.

(Response.)

O guard my life, and deliver me;
do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.

(Response.)

Example 6

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

"At that time Michael, the great prince,
the protector of your people, shall arise.
There shall be a time of anguish,
such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence.
But at that time your people shall be delivered,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
some to everlasting life,
and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,
and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and
ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 42)

Response:

My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

(Response.)

My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

(Response.)

These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

(Response.)

Example 7

A reading from the second book of Maccabees (12:43-46)

The noble Judas Maccabeus took up a collection, man by man,
to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver,
and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering.
In doing this he acted very well and honourably,
taking account of the resurrection.
For if he were not expecting
that those who had fallen asleep would rise again,
it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.
But if he was looking to the splendid reward
that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.
Therefore he made atonement for the dead,
so that they might be delivered from their sin.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial psalm (Psalm 103)

Response:

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

(Response.)

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

(Response.)

As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

(Response.)

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

(Response.)

Example 8

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

(3:1-8 11)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

A time to be born, and a time to die

A time to plant, and a time to root up what is planted

A time to break down and a time to build up;

A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance;

A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

A time to keep and a time to discard;

A time to tear, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

God has made everything suitable for its time.

This is the word of the Lord.

Example 9

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-43)

Then Peter began to speak to them:

"I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right
is acceptable to him.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel,
preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with
power;

how he went about doing good
and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;
but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,
not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses,
and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people
and to testify that he is the one ordained by God
as judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets testify about him
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the word of the Lord.

CHOICES FOR THE SECOND READING

Example 1

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)

Hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
For while we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person
though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
Much more surely then,
now that we have been justified by his blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.
For if while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his
life.
But more than that,
we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Example 2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:17-21)

If, because of the one man's trespass,
death exercised dominion through that one,
much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace
and the free gift of righteousness
exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all,
so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.
For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made
sinners,
so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied;
but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,
so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death,
so grace might also exercise dominion through justification
leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Example 3

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-9)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ
Jesus

were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the
Father,

so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him
so that the body of sin might be destroyed,
and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

For whoever has died is freed from sin.

But if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead,
will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Example 4

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:14-23)

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit

that we are children of God,

and if children, then heirs,

heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ

-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with
him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time

are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

For the creation waits with eager longing

for the revealing of the children of God;

for the creation was subjected to futility,

not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it,

in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to
decay

and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation

has been groaning in labour pains until now;

and not only the creation, but we ourselves,

who have the first fruits of the Spirit,

groan inwardly while we wait for adoption,

the redemption of our bodies.

Example 5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:31-35, 37-39)

If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes,
who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Example 6

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (14:7-12)

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

If we live, we live to the Lord,

and if we die, we die to the Lord;

so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ died and lived again,

so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister?

Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister?

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Example 7

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:20-28)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

For since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;
for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in his own order:

Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end,

when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father,
after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet."

But when it says,

"All things are put in subjection,"

it is plain that this does not include the one
who put all things in subjection under him.

When all things are subjected to him,

then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one

who put all things in subjection under him,

so that God may be all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Example 8

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57)

Listen, I will tell you a mystery!

We will not all die, but we will all be changed,
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,

and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability,
and this mortal body must put on immortality.
When this perishable body puts on imperishability,
and this mortal body puts on immortality,
then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:
"Death has been swallowed up in victory."
"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God,
who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Example 9

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:13–5:1)

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also
with Jesus,
and will bring us with you into his presence.
Yes, everything is for your sake,
so that grace, as it extends to more and more people,
may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.
So we do not lose heart.
Even though our outer nature is wasting away,
our inner nature is being renewed day by day.
For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us
for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,
because we look not at what can be seen
but at what cannot be seen;
for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.
For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

This is the word of the Lord.

Example 10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (5:1, 6-10)

We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
So we are always confident;
even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are
away
from the Lord
-- we walk by faith, not by sight.
Yes, we do have confidence,
and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the
Lord.
So whether we are at home or away,
we make it our aim to please him.
For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the
body,
whether good or evil.

This is the word of the Lord.

SAMPLE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Let us pray for [NAME] family, [His/her] sons and daughters, sisters-in-law, brother-in-laws, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and her wide circle of friends

May God fill their hearts with his comfort and consolation.

Lord Hear Us

2. Lord, give your strength and healing to all those who are sad, lonely, or sick at this time.

May God lay his healing hands on them and give them courage and hope.

Lord Hear Us

3. We thank God for the gift and privilege of knowing [NAME] and for the joy and laughter [she/he] brought into our lives.

Lord Hear Us

4. We pray for all the Doctors, Nurses and carers who looked after [NAME]

We thank the staff of [NAME] and in particular the wonderful staff at [St. Brendan's Home] who cared for [NAME] in [her/his] final days with such love and compassion.

We ask God to bless them in their work.

Lord Hear Us

5. We pray for those who cannot be here with us today. We particularly keep in our thoughts [NAMES]. We present to the Lord their grieving, their loss, their mourning and their desire to be here.

Lord Hear Us

6. Today we pray for the deceased members of the [NAMES] family.

We pray in particular for [NAMES].

May God now welcome [NAME] into his heavenly home of eternal happiness and peace.

Lord Hear Us

7. We pray for our beloved [grandfather/grandmother] [NAME]. that [he/she] may find eternal rest and happiness in Heaven.

We will always love and miss [him/her].

Lord Hear Us

8. Let us pray for all the doctors and nurses in [HOSPITAL NAMES], who cared so well for [NAME] during [his/her] illness. We thank God for the specialist team in Galway Hospice Foundation who cared so well for [NAME] during his final weeks.

Lord Hear Us

10 [NAME] was an inspiration who touched many people in his life. He was one of life's great men, a mighty man. Help us to keep alive the values and the ideals he put before us, and pray that the Lord will give us the strength to follow our dreams and never quit.

Lord Hear Us

11 We pray in thanksgiving for our neighbours and friends who have been so kind to us during this time of sadness, and those who prepared [NAME] final resting place may god reward them for their kindness

Lord Hear Us

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