

Suggested Propers for the Funeral Service

The psalms, hymns, and readings in boldface should be given special consideration due to long standing usage in the Funeral Service.

PSALMODY

The following psalms may be used in the Funeral Service at the INTROIT, PSALM, or GRADUAL, or the Procession when leaving the church. Suggested antiphons are given in parentheses.

Psalm 16 (v. 11a)	You make known to me the path of life
Psalm 17:6–15 (v. 15b)	When I awake I will be satisfied
Psalm 23 (v. 4)	I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
Psalm 25:1–5, 15–20 (v. 20a)	Guard my soul and deliver me
Psalm 27 (v. 13)	I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord
Psalm 31:7–24 (v. 5a)	Into your hand I commit my spirit
Psalm 34:1–9 (v. 9)	Fear the Lord, you his saints
Psalm 39:4–13 (v. 7)	My hope is in you
Psalm 42 (Ps. 43:3b)	Let them bring me to your holy hill
Psalm 46 (v. 7)	The Lord of hosts is with us
Psalm 63:1–8 (v. 1b)	My soul thirsts for you
Psalm 65:1–8 (v. 4a)	Blessed is the one you choose and bring near
Psalm 71:14–24 (v. 20b)	From the depths of the earth you bring me up
Psalm 73:23–28 (v. 24)	Afterward you will receive me to glory
Psalm 84 (v. 4)	Blessed are those who dwell in your house
Psalm 90 (v. 14a)	Satisfy us with your steadfast love
Psalm 102 (v. 28a)	The children of your servants will dwell secure
Psalm 103:1–18 (v. 4)	He redeems your life from the pit
Psalm 116:1–9, 15 (v. 15)	Precious in the sight of the Lord
Psalm 118:1–21 (v. 20)	This is the gate of the Lord
Psalm 121 (v. 2)	My help comes from the Lord
Psalm 122 (v. 1b)	Let us go to the house of the Lord
Psalm 126 (v. 5)	Those who sow in tears will reap with joy
Psalm 130 (v. 1)	Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Psalm 139 (v. 18b)	When I awake I am still with you
Psalm 143 (v. 11a)	For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life
Psalm 146 (v. 2a)	I will praise the Lord as long as I live

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 12:15b–23	King David looks to the resurrection of his son
1 Kings 17:17–24	Elijah raises the widow's son
2 Kings 4:18–37	Elisha raises the Shunammite's son
Job 5:6–7, 17–26	Job's friend speaks of God's wounding and healing
Job 14:1–17	Job speaks of his mortality

Job 19:21-27

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah 26:1-4, 19

Isaiah 35:3-10

Isaiah 40:6-11

Isaiah 40:27-31

Isaiah 43:1-3a, 25

Isaiah 46:3-4

Isaiah 49:13-16

Isaiah 53:1-12

Isaiah 57:1-2

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10

Isaiah 65:17-25

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Lamentations 3:22-33

Daniel 12:1-3

Job confesses his faith in the resurrection

Remember your creator

The Lord God will swallow up death forever

Your dead will live

Sorrow and sighing will flee away

He will tend his flock like a shepherd

He gives strength to the weary

Fear not . . . you are mine

Even to your old age I am he

I will not forget you

The man of sorrows

The righteous find rest

To comfort all who mourn

New heavens and a new earth

Rachel mourns for her children

His compassions never fail

Those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake

These readings may be used during the Easter season when the Three-Year Lectionary is followed.

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Acts 9:36-42

Acts 10:34-43

Acts 13:26-33a

God raised Jesus from the dead

Peter raises Dorcas from the dead

God raised Jesus from the dead

God raised Jesus from the dead

EPISTLE

Romans 5:1-11

Romans 5:17-21

Romans 6:3-10

Romans 8:14-23

Romans 8:31-39

Romans 14:7-9

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Philippians 3:8-11

Philippians 3:20-21

Colossians 3:1-4

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2 Timothy 2:8-13

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Hebrews 2:14-18

Christ died for us

Justification brings life for all

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection

We share in Christ's sufferings and glory

Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ

Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord

In Christ all will be made alive

Death is swallowed up in victory

The one who raised Jesus from the dead will raise us

Away from the body and at home with the Lord

Knowing Christ and the power of his resurrection

Our citizenship is in heaven

You have been raised with Christ

The dead in Christ will rise first

If we died with him, we will also live with him

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race

By his death he destroyed death

Hebrews 4:6–11
 Hebrews 11:1–2, 13–16
 Hebrews 12:1–3
 Hebrews 13:12–14, 20–21
 James 4:13–17
1 Peter 1:3–9
1 John 3:1–2
Revelation 7:9–17
Revelation 14:13
 Revelation 19:4–9
Revelation 21:1–7
 Revelation 22:1–5

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13–20
Matthew 5:1–12
 Matthew 11:25–30
 Matthew 18:1–5, 10
 Matthew 25:1–13
 Matthew 25:31–40
 Matthew 27:45–54; 28:1–6
 Mark 5:35–43
Mark 10:13–16
 Mark 15:33–39; 16:1–6
Luke 2:25–32
 Luke 2:36–38
 Luke 7:11–17
 Luke 12:16–21
 Luke 16:19–31
 Luke 23:33, 39–43
 Luke 23:44–49; 24:1–6a
 John 3:16–18
 John 4:46–53
John 5:24–30
John 6:27–40
 John 6:51–58
John 10:11–16
 John 10:27–30
 John 11:17–27
 John 11:32–45
 John 12:23–28
John 14:1–6
 John 19:16b–18, 25–30

The Sabbath rest of God
 Aliens and strangers on earth
 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus
 The God of peace who raised the Lord Jesus
 What is your life?
A living hope through the resurrection of Christ
We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is
Standing before the throne in front of the Lamb
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord
 Blessed are those invited to the wedding of the Lamb
A new heaven and a new earth
 The Lord God will be their light

Herod murders the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem
Blessed are you . . .
 Rest for the weary
 Unless you turn and become as children
 Jesus, the heavenly bridegroom, comes
 Come, take your inheritance prepared for you
 Jesus' death and resurrection
 Jesus raises the daughter of Jairus
Little children are brought to Jesus
 Jesus' death and resurrection
Lord, let your servant go in peace
 Anna spoke to all looking forward to the redemption
 Jesus raises the young man of Nain
 This night your soul is required of you
 The angels carried him to Abraham's side
 Today you will be with me in paradise
 Jesus' death and resurrection
 God so loved the world
 Come down before my child dies
He has passed over from death to life
I will raise him up at the last day
 Whoever feeds on my flesh has eternal life
I am the Good Shepherd
 I give them eternal life
 I am the resurrection and the life
 Lazarus, come out!
 Whoever hates his life in this world will keep it
I am the way, and the truth, and the life
 Jesus' death

HYMNS

The following hymns may be used at the ENTRANCE HYMN, HYMN OF THE DAY, or the Procession when leaving the church.

- 438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
- 878 Abide with Me
- 596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
- 753 All for Christ I Have Forsaken
- 601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized
- 477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven
- 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
- 467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
- 697 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death
- 676 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White**
- 725 Children of the Heavenly Father
- 509 Christ Is Surely Coming
- 458 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
- 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living
- 605 Father Welcomes
- 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
- 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
- 748 I'm But a Stranger Here
- 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
- 708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart**
- 484 Make Songs of Joy
- 747 No Saint on Earth Lives Life to Self Alone
- 880 Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow
- 552 O Christ, Who Shared Our Mortal Life
- 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
- 449 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

- 450 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
- 679 Oh, How Blest Are They
- 675 Oh, What Their Joy
- 598 Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters
- 671 Sing with All the Saints in Glory
- 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
- 762 There Is a Time for Everything
- 482 This Joyful Eastertide
- 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
- 760 What God Ordains Is Always Good
- 730 What Is the World to Me
- 764 When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love
- 763 When Peace, like a River
- 483 With High Delight Let Us Unite

Settings of the NUNC DIMITTIS from the Divine Service (LSB page 165, 199, or 211) may be used.

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

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

OBITUARY

An obituary may be printed and/or read. If it is read in the Funeral Service, it may occur before the INVOCATION or in connection with the SERMON. Several options are provided below. They must be adapted according to circumstance and may be expanded to include additional information, such as the church and location of the deceased's Baptism and Confirmation. When published, the place of burial may also be included.

Example 1

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant name.

Full name was given life by his/her creator and was born on date, the child of name of father and name of mother. On date, he/she received the gift of Holy Baptism and became a child of God. On date, he/she publicly confessed his/her faith and was confirmed. He/She received the precious gift of the Lord's life-giving body and blood. On date, he/she received the gift of a beloved companion in his/her spouse, _____. He/She was blessed with the gift of children (a child), name(s) of child(ren). God blessed name's life with many special people as he/she served God in his/her vocations at home, church, work, and in the community. Finally, on date God blessed name with a holy death and took him/her home to rest in the arms of Jesus to await the resurrection of the dead.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our brother/sister name.

Example 2

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant name.

Full name, son/daughter of name of father and name of mother was born in _____ on date. He/She was baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit on date. He/She confessed his/her baptismal faith in the rite of Confirmation on date and was admitted to the altar to receive the medicine of immortality, Christ's life-giving body and blood. Name was joined together in holy matrimony to name of spouse on date. On date, name, at the age of _____ years, fell asleep in Jesus. He/She is survived by _____. He/She is predeceased by _____. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN BURIAL

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our brother/sister name.

Example 3

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant name.

Full name was born in _____ on date to parents name of father and name of mother. He/She was reborn as a child of God in the waters of Holy Baptism on date. On date, he/she was confirmed in the Christian faith and was fed the life-giving body and blood of Jesus. He/She was united in holy marriage to name of spouse on date and blessed with _____ years of married life together. God also blessed them with the gift of children (a child): name(s) of child(ren). On date, God called name home to heaven. He/She is survived by _____. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our brother/sister name.