

Guardian Angels
Additional Funeral Readings

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First Reading Options (Old Testament)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to give birth, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.

What profit have workers from their toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to mortals to be busied about.

God has made everything appropriate to its time, but has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

Sirach 44:8-15

A reading from the book of Sirach

Some of them left behind a name
so that people recount their praises.

Of others no memory remains,
for when they perished, they perished,
As if they had never lived,
they and their children after them.

Yet these also were godly;
their virtues have not been forgotten.

Their wealth remains in their families,
their heritage with their descendants.

Through God's covenant their family endures,
and their offspring for their sake.

And for all time their progeny will endure,
their glory will never be blotted out;

Their bodies are buried in peace,
but their name lives on and on.

At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
and the assembly proclaims their praises.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 41:9-10

A reading from the book of Isaiah

You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth
and summoned from its far-off places,

To whom I have said, You are my servant;
I chose you, I have not rejected you—

Do not fear: I am with you;
do not be anxious: I am your God.
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 60:19-20

A reading from the book of Isaiah

No longer shall the sun
be your light by day,
Nor shall the brightness of the moon
give you light by night;
Rather, the LORD will be your light forever,
your God will be your glory.

No longer will your sun set,
or your moon wane;
For the LORD will be your light forever,
and the days of your grieving will be over.

The Word of the Lord.

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 20-21, 26-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of worth?
Far beyond jewels is her value.

Her husband trusts her judgment;

he does not lack income.

She brings him profit, not loss,
all the days of her life.

She seeks out wool and flax
and weaves with skillful hands.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.

She is not concerned for her household when it snows—
all her charges are doubly clothed.
She opens her mouth in wisdom;
kindly instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over* the affairs of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband, too, praises her:

“Many are the women of proven worth,
but you have excelled them all.”

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Acclaim her for the work of her hands,
and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

Wisdom 5:15-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

See how he is accounted among the heavenly beings;
how his lot is with the holy ones!

We, then, have strayed from the way of truth,
and the light of righteousness did not shine for us,
and the sun did not rise for us.

We were entangled in the thorns of mischief and of ruin;
we journeyed through trackless deserts,
but the way of the LORD we never knew.

What did our pride avail us?
What have wealth and its boastfulness afforded us?

All of them passed like a shadow
and like a fleeting rumor;

Like a ship traversing the heaving water:
when it has passed, no trace can be found,
no path of its keel in the waves.

Or like a bird flying through the air;
no evidence of its course is to be found—
But the fluid air, lashed by the beating of pinions,
and cleft by the rushing force
Of speeding wings, is traversed;
and afterward no mark of passage can be found in it.

Or as, when an arrow has been shot at a mark,
the parted air straightway flows together again
so that none discerns the way it went—

Even so, once born, we abruptly came to nought
and held no sign of virtue to display,
but were consumed in our wickedness.”

Yes, the hope of the wicked is like chaff borne by the wind,
and like fine, storm-driven snow;
Like smoke scattered by the wind,
and like the passing memory of the nomad camping for a single day.

But the righteous live forever,

and in the LORD is their recompense,
and the thought of them is with the Most High.
Therefore shall they receive the splendid crown,
the beautiful diadem, from the hand of the LORD,
For he will shelter them with his right hand,
and protect them with his arm.

The Word of the Lord.

Song of Songs 2:10b-13

A reading from the Song of Songs

My lover speaks and says to me,
“Arise, my friend, my beautiful one,
and come!

For see, the winter is past,
the rains are over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of pruning the vines has come,
and the song of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance.
Arise, my friend, my beautiful one,
and come!

The Word of the Lord.

Sirach 3: 5-8, 12-15

A reading from the book of Sirach

Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children,

and when they pray they are heard.

Those who respect their father will live a long life;
those who obey the Lord honor their mother.

Those who fear the Lord honor their father,
and serve their parents as masters.

In word and deed honor your father,
that all blessings may come to you.

My son, be steadfast in honoring your father;
do not grieve him as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him;
do not revile him because you are in your prime.

Kindness to a father will not be forgotten;
it will serve as a sin offering—it will take lasting root.

In time of trouble it will be recalled to your advantage,
like warmth upon frost it will melt away your sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Second Reading Options (New Testament)

2 Timothy 4:6-8

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Word of the Lord.
