

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS: FOR THE BURIAL OF CHILDREN

BIBLICAL READINGS

In the Easter Season the First Reading is traditionally taken from the New Testament, either the Acts of the Apostles or the Apocalypse. These readings are indicated by the suffix 'E' — NC-1E.

In the published Lectionary the First Reading is paired with a Responsorial Psalm. This is a suggestion only and one of the other Responsorial Psalms may be used. The suggested pairing is indicated in the contents below by a reference in the list of readings — [P-1].

In a similar way there is a suggested pairing of Gospel Acclamation and Gospel and this is indicated in the contents below — [V-1].

A. BURIAL OF BAPTISED CHILDREN

Readings from the Old Testament

- OC-1 Isaiah 25:6–9 [PC-1] 1
The Lord will destroy Death for ever.
- OC-2 Lamentations 3:17–26 [PC-2] 2
It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.

Readings from the New Testament (First Reading in the Easter Season)

- NC-1E Apocalypse 7:9–10. 15–17 [PC-4] 3
God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.
- NC-2E Apocalypse 21:1. 3–5 [PC-3] 4
There will be no more death.

Responsorial Psalms

- PC-1 Psalm 22 (23). R̥:1 5
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
- PC-2 Psalm 24 (25):4–7. 20–21. R̥: 1 6
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- PC-3 Psalm 41 (42):2. 3. 5. 42:3–5 R̥: Ps 41:3 7
My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.
- PC-4 Psalm 148: 1–2. 11–14. R̥: 11 8
Praise the name of the Lord.
or: Alleluia!

Readings from the New Testament

NC-1	Romans 6:3–4, 8–9	9
	<i>We believe that we shall return to life with Christ.</i>	
NC-2	Romans 14:7–9	10
	<i>Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.</i>	
NC-3	1 Corinthians 15:20–23	11
	<i>All men will be brought to life in Christ.</i>	
NC-4	Ephesians 1:3–5	12
	<i>Before the world was made God chose us in Christ.</i>	
NC-5	1 Thessalonians 4:13–14, 18	13
	<i>We shall stay with the Lord for ever.</i>	

Alleluia Verses & Verses before the Gospel

VC-1	cf. Mt 11:25	14
	<i>Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth.</i>	
VC-2	Jn 6:39	14
	<i>It is my Father's will, says the Lord.</i>	
VC-3	2 Cor 1:3–4	14
	<i>Blessed be God, a gentle Father.</i>	

Gospel

GC-1	Matthew 11:25–30 [VC-1]	15
	<i>You have hidden these things from the clever, and have revealed them to mere children.</i>	
GC-2	John 6:37–40 [VC-2]	16
	<i>It is my Father's will that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me.</i>	
GC-2s	John 6:37–39 [VC-2]	17
	<i>It is my Father's will that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me.</i>	
GC-3	John 6:51–58 [VC-2] (for a child who has received the Eucharist)	18
	<i>Anyone who eats this bread has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.</i>	
GC-4	John 11:32–38.40 [VC-3]	19
	<i>If you believe, you will see the glory of God.</i>	
GC-5	John 19:25–30 [VC-3]	20
	<i>This is your mother.</i>	

B. BURIAL OF NON-BAPTISED CHILDREN

Readings from the Old Testament

- ON-1 Isaiah 25:6–9 [PC-1] 21
The Lord will destroy Death for ever
- ON-2 Lamentations 3:17–26 [PC-1] 22
It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.

Responsorial Psalms

- PN-1 Psalm 24 (25):4–7. 20–21. R: 1 23
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Alleluia Verses & Verses before the Gospel

- VN-1 2 Cor 1:3–4 24
Blessed be God, a gentle Father.
- VN-2 Apoc 1:5–6 24
Jesus Christ is the First-born from the dead.

Gospel

- GN-1 Matthew 11:25–30 [VN-2] 25
You have hidden these things from the clever, and have revealed them to mere children.
- GN-2 Mark 15:33–46 [VN-1] 26
Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
- GN-3 John 19:25–30 [VN-1] 28
This is your mother.

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**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
& WALES

For the Burial of Children

A Burial of Baptised Children

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

OC-1

Reading

Isaiah 25:6.7-9

The Lord will destroy Death for ever.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Lamentations 3:17–26

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.

A reading from the book of Lamentations

My soul is shut out from peace;

I have forgotten happiness.

And now I say, 'My strength is gone,
that hope which came from the Lord'.

Brooding on my anguish and affliction
is gall and wormwood.

My spirit ponders it continually
and sinks within me.

This is what I shall tell my heart,
and so recover hope:

the favours of the Lord are not all past,
his kindnesses are not exhausted;
every morning they are renewed;
great is his faithfulness.

'My portion is the Lord' says my soul
'and so I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who trust him,
to the soul that searches for him.

It is good to wait in silence
for the Lord to save.

The word of the Lord.

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT (FIRST READING IN THE EASTER SEASON)

NC-1E

Reading

Apocalypse 7:9–10. 15–17

God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count,
of people from every nation, race, tribe and language;
they were standing in front of the throne
and in front of the Lamb,
dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands.
They shouted aloud,
‘Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’
They now stand in front of God’s throne
and serve him day and night in his sanctuary;
and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.
They will never hunger or thirst again;
neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them,
because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd
and will lead them to springs of living water;
and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Apocalypse 21:1. 3-5
There will be no more death.

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.

Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne,
'You see this city? Here God lives among men.

He will make his home among them;
they shall be his people, and he will be their God;
his name is God-with-them.

He will wipe away all tears from their eyes;
there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness.
The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke:
'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

PC-1

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22. R̄ v.1

R̄. 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. R̄.

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. R̄.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. R̄.

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. R̄.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4–7. 20–21. R. v.1.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. R.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. R.

Preserve my life and rescue me.

Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge.

May innocence and uprightness protect me:
for my hope is in you, O Lord. R.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 41:2-3. 5. 42:3-5 R. Ps 41:3

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

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God. R.

My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God? R.

These things will I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng wild with joy. R.

O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain
to the place where you dwell. R.

And I will come to the altar of God,
the God of my Joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,
O God, my God. R.

Why are you cast down, my soul,
why groan within me?
Hope in God; I will praise him still,
my saviour and my God. R.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 148:1-2, 11-14. R. v.13

R. Praise the name of the Lord.

or

R. Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host. R.

All earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes and rulers;
young men and maidens,
old men together with children. R.

Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is exalted.
The splendour of his name
reaches beyond heaven and earth. R.

He exalts the strength of his people.
He is the praise of all his saints,
of the sons of Israel,
of the people to whom he comes close. R.

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

NC-1

Reading

Romans 6:3–4.8–9

We believe that we shall return to life with Christ.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

You have been taught that
when we were baptised in Christ Jesus
we were baptised in his death;
in other words,
when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him
and joined him in death,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory,
we too might live a new life.

We believe that having died with Christ
we shall return to life with him:
Christ, as we know,
having been raised from the dead will never die again.
Death has no power over him any more.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Romans 14:7-9

Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others;

if we live, we live for the Lord;

and if we die, we die for the Lord,

so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

This explains why Christ both died and came to life,

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

The word of the Lord.

Reading

1 Corinthians 15:20–23

All men will be brought to life in Christ.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Death came through one man
and in the same way the resurrection of the dead
has come through one man.

Just as all men die in Adam,
so all men will be brought to life in Christ;

but all of them in their proper order;

Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ,
those who belong to him.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

Ephesians 1:3–5

Before the world was made God chose us in Christ.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.
Before the world was made, he chose us,
chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless,
and to live through love in his presence,
determining that we should become his adopted sons,
through Jesus Christ
for his own kind purposes.

The word of the Lord.

Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13–14. 18
We shall stay with the Lord for ever.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers,
about those who have died,
to make sure that you do not grieve about them,
like the other people who have no hope.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again,
and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus:
God will bring them with him.

With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA VERSES & VERSES BEFORE THE GOSPEL

During the season of Lent the *Alleluia* sung before and after the Verse before the Gospel is replaced by an acclamation such as: *Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

VC-1

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.
Alleluia!

VC-2

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 6:39

Alleluia, alleluia!
It is my Father's will, says the Lord
that I should lose nothing
of all that he has given to me,
and that I should raise it up on the last day.
Alleluia!

VC-3

Gospel Acclamation

2 Cor 1:3-4

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed be God, a gentle Father
and the God of all consolation,
who comforts us in all our sorrows.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

GC-1

Gospel

Matthew 11:25–30

You have hidden these things from the clever, and have revealed them to mere children.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus exclaimed,

‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth,
for hiding these things from the learned and the clever
and revealing them to mere children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father;
and no one knows the Son except the Father,
just as no one knows the Father except the Son
and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened,
and I will give you rest.

Shoulder my yoke and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.

Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

John 6:37-40

It is my Father's will that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘All that the Father gives me will come to me,
and whoever comes to me

I shall not turn him away;
because I have come from heaven,
not to do my own will,

but to do the will of the one who sent me.

Now the will of him who sent me

is that I should lose nothing
of all that he has given to me,

and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Yes, it is my Father's will

that whoever sees the Son and believes in him
shall have eternal life,

and that I shall raise him up on the last day.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

GC-2s

Shorter form

Gospel

John 6:37–39

It is my Father's will that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘All that the Father gives me will come to me,
and whoever comes to me
I shall not turn him away;
because I have come from heaven,
not to do my own will,
but to do the will of the one who sent me.
Now the will of him who sent me
is that I should lose nothing
of all that he has given to me,
and that I should raise it up on the last day.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

GC-3

For a child who has received the Eucharist

Gospel

John 6:51-58

Anyone who eats this bread has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowd:

‘I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.’

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ they said. Jesus replied:

‘I tell you most solemnly,
if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood,
you will not have life in you.
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
has eternal life,
and I shall raise him up on the last day.
For my flesh is real food
and my blood is real drink.
He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood
lives in me and I live in him.
As I, who am sent by the living Father,
myself draw life from the Father,
so whoever eats me will draw life from me.
This is the bread come down from heaven;
not like the bread our ancestors ate:
they are dead,
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

John 11:32–38. 40

If you believe, you will see the glory of God.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Mary the sister of Lazarus went to Jesus,
and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet,
saying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’

At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her,
Jesus said in great distress,

with a sigh that came straight from the heart,
‘Where have you put him?’

They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’

Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’

But there were some who remarked,
‘He opened the eyes of the blind man,
could he not have prevented this man’s death?’

Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb:
it was a cave with a stone to close the opening.

Jesus said,

‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

John 19:25–30
This is your mother.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.
Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her,
Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.'
Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother'

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed,
and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said:

'I am thirsty.'

A jar full of vinegar stood there,
so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick
they held it up to his mouth.

After Jesus had taken the vinegar
he said, 'It is accomplished';
and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

For the Burial of Children

B Burial of Non-Baptised Children

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

ON-1

Reading

Isaiah 25:6-8

The Lord will destroy Death for ever.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

The word of the Lord.

ON-2

Reading

Lamentations 3:22–26

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.

A reading from the book of Lamentations

The favours of the Lord are not all past,
his kindnesses are not exhausted;
every morning they are renewed;
great is his faithfulness.

‘My portion is the Lord’ says my soul
‘and so I will hope in him.’

The Lord is good to those who trust him,
to the soul that searches for him.

It is good to wait in silence
for the Lord to save.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

PN-1

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4–7. 20–21. R. v.1.

R. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

or

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

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. R.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. R.

Relieve the anguish of my heart
and set me free from my distress.
Preserve my life and rescue me.
Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge. R.

ALLELUIA VERSES & VERSES BEFORE THE GOSPEL

During the season of Lent the *Alleluia* sung before and after the Verse before the Gospel is replaced by an acclamation such as: *Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

VN-1

Gospel Acclamation

2 Cor 1:3–4

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed be God, a gentle Father
and the God of all consolation,
who comforts us in all our sorrows.
Alleluia!

VN-2

Gospel Acclamation

Apoc 1:5–6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus Christ is the First-born from the dead;
to him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

GN-1

Gospel

Matthew 11:25–30

You have hidden these things from the clever, and have revealed them to mere children.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus exclaimed,

‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth,
for hiding these things from the learned and the clever
and revealing them to mere children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father;
and no one knows the Son except the Father,
just as no one knows the Father except the Son
and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened,
and I will give you rest.

Shoulder my yoke and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.

Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

Mark 15:33–46

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

When the sixth hour came
there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.
And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’
which means, ‘My God, My God, why have you deserted me?’
When some of those who stood by heard this, they said,
‘Listen, he is calling on Elijah.’
Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar
and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying,
‘Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.’

But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
The centurion, who was standing in front of him,
had seen how he had died and he said,
‘In truth this man was a son of God.’

There were some women watching from a distance.
Among them were Mary of Magdala,
Mary who was the mother of James the younger
and Joset, and Salome.
These used to follow him and look after him when he was in Galilee.
And there were many other women there
who had come up to Jerusalem with him.

It was now evening, and since it was Preparation Day
(that is, the vigil of the sabbath),
there came Joseph of Arimathaea,
a prominent member of the Council,
who himself lived in the hope of seeing the kingdom of God,
and he boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
Pilate, astonished that he should have died so soon,
summoned the centurion and enquired if he was already dead.
Having been assured of this by the centurion,
he granted the corpse to Joseph who bought a shroud,
took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the shroud
and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of rock.
He then rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel

John 19:25–30
This is your mother.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.
Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her,
Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.'
Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother'

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed,
and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said:

'I am thirsty.'

A jar full of vinegar stood there,
so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick
they held it up to his mouth.

After Jesus had taken the vinegar
he said, 'It is accomplished';
and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord.