

# *Planning Your Funeral*



*St. Philip's Episcopal Church*

*342 E. Wood Street*

*Palatine, Illinois*

*The Rev. Laura Gottardi-Littell, Rector*

## Notes on Planning your Funeral

We hope this booklet will guide you through the planning of a funeral at St. Philip's Church. Our funerals are held on weekdays at either 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. We do not do funerals on Sundays. Our Episcopal funeral liturgies intend to give honor to God for the life of the deceased and encouragement to the bereaved. Here are some things to keep in mind:

**COMMUNION:** It is appropriate and encouraged, though not required, to include Communion in the burial liturgy, as recognition that we share in the Resurrection of our Lord. Whether you choose Rite One or Rite Two, the Great Thanksgiving from the appropriate rite is added to the regular service (which becomes the Liturgy of the Word.)

**HYMNS:** Singing is often very helpful to the bereaved and adds warmth to the service. All hymns must be coordinated with the Music Minister. The choir sings at funerals when possible. You may choose up to three hymns. If your family or those attending are not likely to sing, we encourage you to select having the organist play the hymns as an instrumental. There is a \$150 fee for the organist to play at the funeral. The check is paid directly to the Music Minister. Often, if you give the check to the funeral director, they will make sure it goes to the proper person.

**READINGS:** One has quite a list of readings from which to choose. Choose between 2 and 3 readings. One Reading is probably not enough, two is the usual, and three is possible. Each reading should be from a different section (Old Testament, New Testament, or Gospels). A reading from the Gospels must be included.

**PSALMS:** Psalms are separate from the Readings above and are usually placed between the Readings. Sometimes hymns are used in their place.

**FEES:** There are no fees for the use of the church for funerals, or the great hall for a reception. Though sometimes honoraria are given to clergy, this is left to the discretion of the family. There are fees for flowers, the organist, a caterer (if used) and the Columbarium (if used).

**COMMITTAL:** It is recommended (though not required) that the Committal at either a cemetery or in St. Philip's columbarium occur prior to the burial service in the church. This allows the Committal to serve as an intimate service for family and closest friends, and it enables the family to receive guests at a reception after the service in the church rather than then proceeding to the Committal.

**RECEPTIONS:** It is easy to have a simple reception following the service in the Parish Hall or Garden (if not already in use, however, you will need to arrange for refreshments).

## My Funeral Wishes

**Date Submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Executor/Family:** \_\_\_\_\_

Filling out this form and filing a copy of it with St. Philip's Church will help ensure that your wishes will be carried out. It will also greatly assist your family, friends and parish in a time of great stress. Please use the form as completely as you feel appropriate to your situation.

### Concerning the Service

*The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection.*

*Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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." ~Book of Common Prayer, page 507*

## THE SERVICE

### *Committal*

**I would prefer not to be cremated. Therefore, I would like the service to be:**

Committal at \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery, \_\_\_\_\_, Illinois, followed by a memorial service at St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

In the church with casket present, followed by committal at \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery, \_\_\_\_\_, Illinois.

Grave side burial and Committal at \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery, \_\_\_\_\_, Illinois.

**I would prefer to be cremated. Therefore, I would like the service to be:**

In the church, **preceded / followed (circle one)** by committal in the St. Philip's Columbarium.

In the church, **preceded / followed (circle one)** by Committal at \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery, \_\_\_\_\_, Illinois.

## *Rite*

I would like the service to be:

**Rite One** (BCP 469) or  **Rite Two** (BCP 491)

## *Holy Eucharist*

I would like to have a celebration of the Holy Eucharist as a part of the service:

**Yes** or  **No**.

## *Music*

As many as three (3) hymns may be chosen. Traditional sources are the *Hymnal 1982; Wonder, Love, and Praise*; and *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Music from other sources will be considered by the Music Director and Rector upon request. We encourage the use of joyful hymns such as those of Easter.

Any music chosen by the Music Director will be fine.

I would like the Music Director to select from the following hymns:

---

---

---

## *Readings*

I would like to leave the choice of the scriptures to the discretion of the clergy.

I would like my family to choose from the selected readings that follow

I have chosen the selected readings that follow

*Please choose one Gospel reading. You may also choose one reading from the Old and New Testament and a Psalm. The full readings are listed on subsequent pages.*

**Old Testament Readings: (Pages 8-9)**

- |                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ Job 19:21-27a | ___ Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 |
| ___ Isaiah 25:6-9 | ___ Wisdom 3:1-5, 9             |
| ___ Isaiah 61:1-3 |                                 |

**Psalms: Rite I (Pages 10-15)**

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| ___ Psalm 23 (KJV) | ___ Psalm 106 |
| ___ Psalm 27       | ___ Psalm 116 |
| ___ Psalm 42       | ___ Psalm 121 |
| ___ Psalm 46       | ___ Psalm 130 |
| ___ Psalm 90       | ___ Psalm 139 |

**Psalms: Rite II (Pages 16-25)**

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| ___ Psalm 23 (BCP) | ___ Psalm 106 |
| ___ Psalm 27       | ___ Psalm 116 |
| ___ Psalm 42       | ___ Psalm 121 |
| ___ Psalm 46       | ___ Psalm 130 |
| ___ Psalm 90       | ___ Psalm 139 |

**New Testament Readings: (Pages 26-28)**

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| ___ Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39                | ___ John 3:1-2        |
| ___ I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 | ___ Revelation 7:9-17 |
| ___ II Corinthians 4:16-5:9                     | ___ Revelation 21-2-7 |

**Gospel Readings: (Pages 29-30)**

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| ___ John 5:24-27  | ___ John 11:21-27 |
| ___ John 6:35-40  | ___ John 14:1-6   |
| ___ John 10:11-16 |                   |

Are there any special prayers that you would like to have included? Please list them below, indicating page numbers in the Book of Common Prayer where they can be found.

---



---



---



---

Those who should be contacted at my death:

Name	Relationship	Phone

*Flowers*

\_\_\_ Yes, I do want flowers                      \_\_\_ No, I do not want flowers

\_\_\_ In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

---

---

---

*Pallbearers*

Please list either six (6) or eight (8) pallbearers with their phone numbers.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_

*Special Requests and/or Reception Details*

---

---

---

---

---

I would like the following people invited to **assist** the current St. Philip’s rector with the service, if they are available:

---

---

---

**Comments** on cost of funeral, funeral home preference, cemetery, vault, container for ashes, memorial gifts, flowers, gravestone etc...

---

---

---

---

If you are considering *donating tissue or being an organ donor for medical research*, you should first discuss this thoroughly with your family, your doctor and your funeral director. Ordinarily, such wishes cannot be fulfilled unless preparations are made in advance. If you wish to make such a donation of your body please note the particulars:

The casket is *never* open at the church or during the services. While at the church, the casket is covered by the church pall or the American Flag. Let us know if you have served in the armed forces and would like the flag used instead of the pall.  Please use the pall  
 Please use the American Flag

I make the preceding as suggestions and present these wishes in the spirit of helpfulness for the time when decisions will be difficult. Recognizing that it is impossible for me to anticipate accurately all the circumstances that may affect these arrangements, I affirm that my family is of primary importance and thereby their wishes shall prevail. Copies of this form should be placed on file in the parish office, with your attorney, your doctor, and your funeral director, if you have chosen a particular firm.

My date and of place of birth:

---

---

*(Signature) (Date)*

***We encourage you to include St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in your will. Your undesignated gift will help us to continue to serve God and his children in Palatine.***

## *OLD TESTAMENT READINGS*

### **Job 19:21-27a**

"Have pity on me, my friends, have pity, for the hand of God has struck me. Why do you pursue me as God does? Will you never get enough of my flesh? "Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes - I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

### **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.

### **Isaiah 61:1-3**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

### **Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33**

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. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

**Wisdom 3:1-5, 9**

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand 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; 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.

*RITE I PSALMS*

**Psalm 23** *King James Version*

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul;

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his

Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of

mine enemies;

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Psalm 27** *Dominus illuminatio*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?

the Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?

One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require,  
even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the  
days of my life,

to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle;  
yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me,  
and set me up upon a rock of stone.

And now shall he lift up mine head  
above mine enemies round about me.

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with  
great gladness;

I will sing and speak praises unto the Lord.

Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee;  
have mercy upon me, and hear me.

My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face.

Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

O hide not thou thy face from me,  
nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

I should utterly have fainted,  
but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in  
the land of the living.

O tarry thou the Lord's leisure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart;  
and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

**Psalm 42** *Quemadmodum*

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks,  
 so longeth my soul after thee, O God.  
 My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God;  
 when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?  
 My tears have been my meat day and night,  
 while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?  
 Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself;  
 for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of God;  
 In the voice of praise and thanksgiving,  
 among such as keep holy-day.  
 Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul?  
 and why art thou so disquieted within me?  
 O put thy trust in God;  
 for I will yet thank him, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

**Psalm 46** *Deus noster refugium*

God is our hope and strength,  
 a very present help in trouble.  
 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved,  
 and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;  
 Though the waters thereof rage and swell,  
 and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.  
 There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God,  
 the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.  
 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed;  
 God shall help her, and that right early.  
 Be still then, and know that I am God;  
 I will be exalted among the nations,  
 and I will be exalted in the earth.  
 The Lord of hosts is with us;  
 the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**Psalm 90** *Domine, refugium*

Lord, thou hast been our refuge,  
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever the earth and the world were made,  
thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

Thou turnest man to destruction;  
again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past,  
and as a watch in the night.

As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep,  
and fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green, and groweth up;  
but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.

For we consume away in thy displeasure,  
and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.

Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee,  
and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

For when thou art angry all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.

The days of our age are threescore years and ten;  
and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years,  
yet is their strength then but labor and sorrow,  
so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.

So teach us to number our days,  
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

**Psalm 106** *Confitemini Domino*

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious,  
and his mercy endureth for ever.

Who can express the noble acts of the Lord,  
or show forth all his praise?

Blessed are they that always keep judgment,  
and do righteousness.

Remember me, O Lord, according to the favor that thou  
bearest unto thy people;

O visit me with thy salvation;

That I may see the felicity of thy chosen,  
and rejoice in the gladness of thy people,  
and give thanks with thine inheritance.

**Psalm 116** *Dilexi, quoniam*

My delight is in the Lord,  
 because he hath heard the voice of my prayer;  
 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me,  
 therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.  
 The snares of death compassed me round about,  
 and the pains of hell gat hold upon me.  
 I found trouble and heaviness;  
 then called I upon the Name of the Lord;  
 O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.  
 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;  
 yea, our God is merciful.  
 The Lord preserveth the simple;  
 I was in misery, and he helped me.  
 Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul,  
 for the Lord hath rewarded thee.  
 And why? thou hast delivered my soul from death,  
 mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.  
 I will walk before the Lord  
 in the land of the living.  
 I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people;  
 right dear in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

**Psalm 121** *Levavi oculos*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills;  
 from whence cometh my help?  
 My help cometh even from the Lord,  
 who hath made heaven and earth.  
 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved,  
 and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.  
 Behold, he that keepeth Israel  
 shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
 The Lord himself is thy keeper;  
 the Lord is thy defense upon thy right hand;  
 So that the sun shall not burn thee by day,  
 neither the moon by night.  
 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil;  
 yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.  
 The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in,  
 from this time forth for evermore.

**Psalm 130** *De profundis*

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well  
the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss,  
O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee,  
therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him;  
in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch;  
I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy,  
and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel  
from all his sins.

**Psalm 139** *Domine, probasti*

O Lord, thou hast searched me out, and known me.

Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising;  
thou understandest my thoughts long before.

Thou art about my path, and about my bed,  
and art acquainted with all my ways.

For lo, there is not a word in my tongue,  
but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.

Thou hast beset me behind and before,  
and laid thine hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me;  
I cannot attain unto it.

Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit?  
or whither shall I go then from thy presence?

If I climb up into heaven, thou art there;  
if I go down to hell, thou art there also.

If I take the wings of the morning,  
and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there also shall thy hand lead me,  
and thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me,  
then shall my night be turned to day.

Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee,  
but the night is as clear as day;

the darkness and light to thee are both alike.

*RITE II PSALMS*

**Psalm 23** *Dominus regit me*

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days  
of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Psalm 27** *Dominus illuminatio*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?  
the Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?  
When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who  
stumbled and fell.  
Though an army should encamp against me,  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;  
And though war should rise up against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him.  
One thing have I asked of the Lord;  
one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days  
of my life;  
To behold the fair beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple.  
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe  
in his shelter;  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.  
Even now he lifts up my head  
above my enemies round about me.  
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.  
Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.  
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.  
Hide not your face from me,  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.  
You have been my helper;  
cast me not away;  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.  
Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the Lord will sustain me.  
Show me your way, O Lord;  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.  
Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice.

What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living!  
O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart;  
wait patiently for the Lord.

**Psalm 42** *Quemadmodum*

As the deer longs for the water-brooks,  
so longs my soul for you, O God.  
My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;  
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?  
My tears have been my food day and night,  
while all day long they say to me,  
“Where now is your God?”-  
I pour out my soul when I think on these things:  
how I went with the multitude and led them into the  
house of God,  
With the voice of praise and thanksgiving,  
among those who keep holy-day.  
Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?  
and why are you so disquieted within me?  
Put your trust in God;  
for I will yet give thanks to him,  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

**Psalm 46** *Deus noster refugium*

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains be toppled into the  
depths of the sea;

Though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown;

God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,  
what awesome things he has done on earth.

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations;

I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Psalm 90** *Domine, refugium*

Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say,  
“Go back, O child of earth.”

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday  
when it is past  
and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream;  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

For we consume away in your displeasure;  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

The span of our life is seventy years,  
perhaps in strength even eighty;  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,  
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

Who regards the power of your wrath?  
who rightly fears your indignation?

So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.  
our handiwork.

**Psalm 106**

Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures for ever.

Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord  
or show forth all his praise?

Happy are those who act with justice  
and always do what is right!

Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have  
for your people,

and visit me with your saving help;

That I may see the prosperity of your elect  
and be glad with the gladness of your people,  
that I may glory with your inheritance.

**Psalm 116** *Dilexi, quoniam*

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of  
my supplication,  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever  
I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the Name of the Lord:

“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

Gracious is the Lord and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.

The Lord watches over the innocent;  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul,  
for the Lord has treated you well.

For you have rescued my life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

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

I believed, even when I said,  
“I have been brought very low.”

In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”

How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his servants.

O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord

In the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the Lord’s house,

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

**Psalm 121** *Levavi oculos*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.  
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;  
The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,  
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep you safe.  
The Lord shall watch over your going out and  
your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.

**Psalm 130** *De profundis*

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice;  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.  
If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
For there is forgiveness with you;  
therefore you shall be feared.  
I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;  
in his word is my hope.  
My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.  
O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
for with the Lord there is mercy;  
With him there is plenteous redemption,  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**Psalm 139** *Domine, probasti*

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit?  
where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me  
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,  
and the light around me turn to night,"

Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day;  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

## *NEW TESTAMENT READINGS*

### **Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39**

For 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; 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.

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58**

But in fact 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. But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 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. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

## **II Corinthians 4:16-5:9**

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. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling-- if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for 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.

## **1 John 3:1-2**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

## **Revelation 7:9-17**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

**Revelation 21:2-7**

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

## GOSPEL

### **John 5:24-27**

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

### **John 6:35-40**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

### **John 10:11-16**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

### **John 11:21-27**

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

**John 14:1-6**

Jesus said "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.