

## Advance Funeral Planning at Incarnation

*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.”*

*This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.*

*(Book of Common Prayer, p. 507)*

*By planning your own, or your loved one's, funeral services in advance, you are offering a gift to those you love. You are lifting a burden of work from your loved ones at a time of grief. You are also making it possible for your most important hopes and preferences to be honored. May God bless you in this work of planning and preparation.*

### Important Details

Full name of the person whose funeral services are being planned:

Date of birth:

Address:

To the best of your knowledge, has this person been:  Baptized?  Confirmed?

Your full name (if different from the person whose services are being planned):

Your phone number:

Your email address:

Your mailing address:

Other important contact people and their contact information:

### Options for the Burial Liturgy

Will the body (or ashes) of the person who has died be present?

*Whenever possible, it is customary for the body to be present for the service, so that it may be honored and blessed before being commended into God's keeping for burial. However, when appropriate, a memorial liturgy can be celebrated without the person's remains present.*

Body  Ashes  No remains

Will the committal of the body (or ashes) be part of the service?

- Interment in Incarnation's Columbarium (see church office for arrangements)     Interment in Incarnation's Memorial Garden (see church office for arrangements)  
 Interment elsewhere on the same day     No interment on the day of the service (describe plans for interment:)

Will the Eucharist be celebrated?     Eucharist     No Eucharist

*It is customary for baptized members of the church to be buried with a celebration of the Eucharist (Holy Communion), the primary sacrament of unity with Christ in his victory over death. However, when a large portion of those expected to attend are of a different faith or no faith, it may be pastorally appropriate to omit the Eucharist.*

What rite will be used?     Rite I (Elizabethan language)     Rite II (modern English)

Will the service include music?

*Music at an Episcopal funeral should be appropriate for worship, and is generally played or sung live, rather than recorded. At times friends or family who are musicians may wish to offer some music.*

- No music     Hymns and organ     Other music (requires approval of organist and clergy)

Are there particular hymns or other pieces of music that should be included?

*See the list of recommended hymns, below. This list is not complete; it is perfectly possible to include other hymns or anthems.*

What readings will be used?

*See the list of recommended scripture readings, below. If the Eucharist is celebrated, a Gospel reading is always included. Most traditional is one Old Testament reading, a Psalm, one New Testament reading, and one Gospel reading. It is possible to include non-scriptural readings, with the approval of the clergy person.*

Are there particular people who should do readings or lead prayers? Give contact information, if possible.

Will anyone offer words of remembrance?

*At an Episcopal funeral, the presiding priest offers a brief homily. It is also possible for friends or family members to speak, if desired.*

- Yes (list names below:)     Clergy homily only

### Other Options

Should particular flowers, photos, or other decorations be used (describe)?

An offering can be taken at the service and designated for Incarnation or for another charitable cause. Where should it be designated?

Will a reception follow in Farlander Hall? (Fees may apply; see church office for arrangements.)

\_\_\_ Yes, with Incarnation's funeral guild organizing it

\_\_\_ Yes, organized separately

\_\_\_ No reception

Estimated attendance (does not need to be precise, just a guess):

### **Some Hymns Appropriate for Burial Services (from the *Hymnal 1982*)**

178	Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord
194/195	Jesus lives! thy terrors now can no longer, Death, appall us
204	Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain
207	Jesus Christ is risen today
208	The strife is o'er, the battle done
287	For all the saints, who from their labors rest
335	I am the bread of life
357	Jesus, Son of Mary
376	Joyful, joyful, we adore thee
410	Praise, my soul, the king of heaven
460	Alleluia, sing to Jesus
482	Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
487	Come, my way, my truth, my life
490	I want to walk as a child of the light
615	"Thy kingdom come!" on bended knee the passing ages pray
618	Ye watchers and ye holy ones
620	Jerusalem, my happy home, when shall I come to thee?
623	O what their joy and their glory must be
625	Ye holy angels bright
637	How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
645	The King of love my shepherd is
657	Love divine, all loves excelling
662	Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
671	Amazing grace
680	O God, our help in ages past
685	Rock of Ages, cleft for me
686	Come, thou fount of every blessing
688	A mighty fortress is our God
690	Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

*When the Eucharist is celebrated, see also the Holy Communion section (300-347).*

*Many other hymns and pieces of music can be included. Consult the clergy and parish music director.*

## **Recommended Scripture Readings for Funeral Services**

*One or more scripture readings are always included. If the Eucharist is celebrated, a Gospel reading is always included. Most traditional is one Old Testament reading, a Psalm, one New Testament reading, and one Gospel reading.*

*It is possible to include non-scriptural readings, with the approval of the clergy person.*

### *From the Old Testament:*

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)  
Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)  
Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)  
Daniel 12:1-3 (Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake)  
Wisdom 1:13-15 (God did not make death)  
Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)  
Job 14:7-12 (Mortals die, and are laid low)  
Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

### *Psalms:*

23, 27, 42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 106:1-5, 116, 118:14-29, 121, 130, 139:1-11

### *From the New Testament:*

Romans 6:3-11 (So we too might walk in newness of life)  
Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)  
Romans 14:7-9 (And if we die, we die to the Lord)  
1 Corinthians 15:20-26 (The last enemy to be destroyed is death)  
1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (Death has been swallowed up in victory)  
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)  
1 Peter 1:3-9 (He has given us a new birth into a living hope)  
1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)  
Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)  
Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

### *The Gospel:*

Matthew 11:25-30 (Come to me, all you that are weary)  
Luke 24:13-16 (17-35) (The road to Emmaus)  
John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)  
John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you)  
John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)  
John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)  
John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)  
John 20:11-18 (Mary encounters the risen Christ)

## **Old Testament Readings**

### **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.

### **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.

### **Wisdom 1:13-15**

God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For righteousness is immortal.

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

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.

### **Job 14:7-12**

There is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant. But mortals die, and are laid low; humans expire, and where are they? As waters fail from a lake, and a river wastes away and dries up, so mortals lie down and do not rise again; until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused out of their sleep.

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

Job said, "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? "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."

## **Psalms**

### **Psalm 23**

1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

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

3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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**

1 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?

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \*  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me, \*  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

4 And though war should rise up against me, \*  
yet will I put my trust in him.

5 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;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
and to seek him in his temple.

7 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.

8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

10 Harken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the LORD will sustain me.

15 Show me your way, O LORD; \*  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice.

17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*  
wait patiently for the LORD.

**Psalm 42:1-7**

1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks, \*  
so longs my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; \*  
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night, \*  
while all day long they say to me,  
"Where now is your God?"

4 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,

5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, \*  
among those who keep holy-day.

6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? \*  
and why are you so disquieted within me?

7 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**

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

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

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

4 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

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

6 God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.

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

8 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, \*  
what awesome things he has done on earth.

10 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.

11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth."

12 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

### **Psalm 90:1-12**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 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.

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

12 So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

### **Psalm 106:1-5**

1 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \*  
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD \*  
or show forth all his praise?

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

4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, \*  
and visit me with your saving help;

5 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**

1 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.

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

3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.

5 The LORD watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*  
for the LORD has treated you well.

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

8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living.

9 I believed, even when I said,  
“I have been brought very low.” \*  
In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”

10 How shall I repay the LORD \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD \*  
is the death of his servants.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD’S house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!

#### **Psalm 118:14-29**

14 The LORD is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory \*  
in the tents of the righteous:

16 “The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! \*  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!”

17 I shall not die, but live, \*  
and declare the works of the LORD.

18 The LORD has punished me sorely, \*  
but he did not hand me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the LORD.

20 “This is the gate of the LORD; \*  
he who is righteous may enter.”

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the LORD’S doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the LORD has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Hosanna, LORD, hosanna! \*  
LORD, send us now success.

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; \*  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

27 God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; \*  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

28 “You are my God, and I will thank you; \*  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”

29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.

### **Psalm 121**

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

### **Psalm 130**

1 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.

2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

### **Psalm 139:1-11 Page 794, BCP**

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

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

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 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 6:3-11**

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. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

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.

### **Romans 14:7-9**

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.

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-26**

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.

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-58**

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.

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.

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

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 Peter 1:3–9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### **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**

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**

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 Readings**

#### **Matthew 11:25–30**

Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**Luke 24:13–35**

On that same day, when the women had come to the tomb at dawn and found it empty, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**John 5:24-27**

Jesus said, “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 6:37-40**

Jesus said to the people, “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**

Jesus said, "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, Lazarus, 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."

**John 20:11-18**

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.