

FUNERAL PLANNING WORKSHEET

Please complete the following questionnaire.

Return the form to the church office at

Christ Lutheran Church 29 S George Street York PA 17401

If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of the pastors at 854-5589

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email address _____

Next of Kin: _____

Do you want your funeral service to be in the church? _____

If this is a memorial service, do you wish to have your burial and the graveside rites carried out some time prior to the service? _____

If yes, do you wish this to be a private service for family only? _____

Where is the location of your burial site? _____

Do you wish your remains to be cremated? _____

If cremation is chosen, do you wish your ashes to be present for the memorial service? _____

Are your ashes to be buried in a plot, scattered, or kept in an urn at the home of your next of kin?

Do you wish to have a viewing/visitation for your family to greet friends? _____

Do you wish your remains to be present for the viewing/visitation? _____

If cremation is **not** chosen, do you prefer a closed or open coffin for the viewing? _____

Do you prefer the viewing to take place in the church or at the funeral home? _____

Do you prefer a viewing the evening before the funeral, or the day of the funeral one hour prior to the service? _____

Are you a member of a social or fraternal society? _____

If yes, what is the name of the society? _____

If yes, do you wish to have the ceremonial tributes of your society to be performed for you? _____

If so, do you prefer to have these done at the funeral home, or after the graveside rites of the church are finished? _____

Do you wish to have the Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated at your funeral or memorial service? _____

Do you wish to have the national flag used on your coffin at the graveside services (if you are entitled to that honor)? _____

Do you desire military rites at the graveside (if you are entitled to that honor)? _____

What hymns from the LBW or WOV would you like at your service (choose up to three to be used as the processional, the hymn of the day and the recessional) _____

Please list those hymns from the LBW or WOV (if any) that you would like to have sung during the distribution of Holy Communion: _____

Would you like one or two Scripture readings before the Gospel? _____

Please list those readings here: _____

If two readings are chosen, would you prefer a Psalm between the first and second readings, or an LBW/WOV hymn? Please specify your choice here: _____

Do you have a preference for the Gospel reading? If so, list it here: _____

Do you wish memorials to be made to the church? _____

Do you desire to have any flowers, other than the altar flowers? _____

Would you like a funeral luncheon for your family and friends? _____

Do you have names that you would like to suggest as pallbearers? If so, list them here:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SUGGESTED READINGS (See following pages for whole readings)

Old Testament (First Reading)

Lamentations 3:22-26; 31-33

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Isaiah 43:1-3a

Isaiah 61:1-3

Isaiah 25:6-9

Job 19:23-27a

Psalms

Psalm 23

Psalm 46:1-7

Psalm 90

Psalm 118

Psalm 121

Psalm 130

Psalm 143

New Testament (Epistle)(Second Reading)

1 Corinthians 13:1-8; 13

Revelation 7:9-17

1 Corinthians 15:12-26

Revelation 14:13

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

Revelation 21:2-7

Romans 5:1-11

Hebrews 11:13-16

Romans 5:17-21

1 Peter 1:3-9

Romans 8:31-34; 37-39

Romans 12:9-18

Romans 14:7-9

Gospel

John 5:24-29

Matthew 11:25-30

John 6:37-40

Matthew 25:1-13

John 11:21-27

Luke 24:13-35

John 11:25-26

John 14:1-7

SUGGESTED HYMNS

LBW

- 135 – “The Stife is O’er The Battle Done”
- 228 – “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”
- 294 – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”
- 315 – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
- 320 – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
- 343 - “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”
- 369 – “The Church’s One Foundation
- 370 – “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
- 377 – “Lift High the Cross
- 439 - “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
- 448 - “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”
- 509 – “Onward, Christian Soldiers
- 532 - “How Great Thou Art”

WOV

- 669 – “Blessed Assurance
- 671 – “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord”
- 690 – “Shall We Gather at the River”
- 702 – “I Am the Bread of Life”
- 721 – “Go, My Children, With my Blessing”
- 771 – “Great is Thy Faithfulness
- 779 – “On Eagle’s Wings (You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord)”

First Readings

Lamentations 3:22–26, 31–33

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

³¹For the LORD will not
reject forever.

³²Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every
matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather
stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from
embracing;

⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

Isaiah 43:1–3a

But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

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;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to 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.

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On 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.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
⁸he 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.

⁹It 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.

Job 19:23–27a

²³"O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!

²⁴O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!

²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;

²⁶and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,

²⁷whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another

Psalms

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my
head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ 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 46:1-7

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 king-
doms are shaken;*

God has spoken, and the earth shall
melt away.

PSALM 90

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.

¹³ Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?*

Be gracious to your servants.

¹⁴ Satisfy us by your lovingkindness in the
morning;*

so shall we rejoice and be glad all the

days of our life.

¹⁵ Make us glad by the measure of the days that
you afflicted us*

and the years in which we suffered
adversity.

¹⁶ Show your servants your works*
and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷ May the graciousness of the LORD our God
be upon us;*

prosper the work of our hands; prosper our
handiwork.

PSALM 118

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for ¹ he is good;*
his mercy en- ¹dures forever.
²Let Israel ¹ now proclaim,*
"His mercy en- ¹dures forever."
³Let the house of Aaron ¹ now proclaim,*
"His mercy en- ¹dures forever."
⁴Let those who fear the LORD ¹ now proclaim,*
"His mercy en- ¹dures forever."
⁵I called to the LORD in ¹ my distress;*
the LORD answered by set- ¹ting me
free.
⁶The LORD is at my side, therefore I ¹ will not
fear;*
what can anyone ¹ do to me?
⁷The LORD is at my ¹ side to help me;*
I will triumph over ¹ those who hate me.
⁸It is better to rely ¹ on the LORD*
than to put any ¹ trust in flesh.
⁹It is better to rely ¹ on the LORD*
than to put any ¹ trust in rulers.
¹⁰All the ungodly en- ¹compass me;*
in the name of the LORD I ¹ will repel
them.
¹¹They hem me in, they hem me in on ¹ every
side;*
in the name of the LORD I ¹ will repel
them.
¹²They swarm about me like bees; they blaze
like a ¹ fire of thorns;*
in the name of the LORD I ¹ will repel
them.
¹³I was pressed so hard that I ¹ almost fell,*
but the LORD came ¹ to my help.
¹⁴The LORD is my strength ¹ and my song,*
and he has become ¹ my salvation.
¹⁵There is a sound of exulta- ¹tion and victory*
in the tents ¹ of the righteous:
¹⁶"The right hand of the ¹ LORD has triumphed!*
The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the ¹ LORD has triumphed!"
¹⁷I shall not ¹ die, but live,*
and declare the works ¹ of the LORD.
¹⁸The LORD has pun- ¹ished me sorely,*
but he did not hand me o- ¹ver to death.
¹⁹Open for me the ¹ gates of righteousness;*
I will enter them; I will offer thanks ¹ to
the LORD.

²⁰"This is the gate ¹ of the LORD;*
he who is right- ¹eous may enter."
²¹I will give thanks to you, for you ¹ answered
me*
and have become ¹ my salvation.
²²The same stone which the build- ¹ers rejected*
has become the chief ¹ cornerstone.
²³This is ¹ the LORD's doing,*
and it is marvelous ¹ in our eyes.
²⁴On this day the ¹ LORD has acted;*
we will rejoice and be ¹ glad in it.
²⁵Hosanna, ¹ LORD, hosanna!*
LORD, send us ¹ now success.
²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name ¹ of the
LORD,*
we bless you from the house ¹ of the
LORD.
²⁷God is the LORD; he has ¹ shined upon us;*
form a procession with branches up to
the horns ¹ of the altar.
²⁸"You are my God, and ¹ I will thank you;*
you are my God, and I ¹ will exalt you."
²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, for ¹ he is good;*
his mercy en- ¹dures forever.

PSALM 121

¹I lift up my eyes ¹ to the hills;*
from where is my ¹ help to come?
²My help comes ¹ from the LORD,*
the maker of heav- ¹en and earth.
³He will not let your ¹ foot be moved*
and he who watches over you will not ¹
fall asleep.
⁴Behold, he who keeps watch ¹ over Israel*
shall neither slum- ¹ber nor sleep;
⁵the LORD himself watches ¹ over you;*
the LORD is your shade at ¹ your right
hand,
⁶so that the sun shall not strike ¹ you by day,*
nor the ¹ moon by night.
⁷The LORD shall preserve you ¹ from all evil;*
it is he who shall ¹ keep you safe.
⁸The LORD shall watch over your going out and
your ¹ coming in,*
from this time forth for- ¹evermore.

PSALM 130

¹Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, ¹hear my voice;*

let your ears consider well the voice of my ¹supplication.

²If you, LORD, were to note what is ¹done amiss,*

O Lord, ¹who could stand?

³For there is forgive- ¹ness with you;* therefore you ¹shall be feared.

⁴I wait for the LORD; my soul ¹waits for him;* in his word ¹is my hope.

⁵My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen ¹for the morning,* more than watchmen ¹for the morning.

⁶O Israel, wait ¹for the LORD,* for with the LORD ¹there is mercy;

⁷with him there is plen- ¹teous redemption,* and he shall redeem Israel from ¹all their sins.

PSALM 143

¹LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my ¹supplications;* answer me ¹in your righteousness.

²Enter not into judgment ¹with your servant,* for in your sight shall no one liv- ¹ing be justified.

³For my enemy has sought my life; he has

crushed me ¹to the ground;*

he has made me live in dark places like those who ¹are long dead.

⁴My spirit ¹faints within me;*

my heart within ¹me is desolate.

⁵I remember the time past; I muse upon ¹all your deeds;*

I consider the works ¹of your hands.

⁶I spread out my ¹hands to you;*

my soul gasps to you like a ¹thirsty land.

⁷O LORD, make haste to answer me; my ¹spirit fails me;*

do not hide your face from me or I shall be like those who go down ¹to the pit.

⁸Let me hear of your lovingkindness in the morning, for I put my ¹trust in you;*

show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my ¹soul to you.

⁹Deliver me from my ene- ¹mies, O LORD,* for I flee to ¹you for refuge.

¹⁰Teach me to do what pleases you, for you ¹are my God;*

let your good Spirit lead me on ¹level ground.

¹¹Revive me, O LORD, ¹for your name's sake;* for your righteousness' sake, bring me ¹out of trouble.

¹²Of your goodness, destroy my enemies and bring all my ¹foes to naught,*

for truly I ¹am your servant.

Second Readings

1 Corinthians 13:1–8, 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 15:12–26

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ — whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

2 Corinthians 4:16—5:10

Chapter 4

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because 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.

Chapter 5

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. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling — ³if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. ⁴For 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. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Romans 5:1–11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than

that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:17–21

¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 8:31–34, 37–39

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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 12:9–18

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 14:7–9

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After 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. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And 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, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I 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.

¹⁵For 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.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for 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 14:13

¹³And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them."

Revelation 21:2–7

²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he 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."

⁵And 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." ⁶Then 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. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Hebrews 11:13–16

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed 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, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Readings

John 5:24–29

²⁴Very 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.

²⁵Very 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. ²⁶For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; ²⁷and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹and will come out — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

John 6:37–40

³⁷Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰This 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 11:21–27

²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

John 11:25–26

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:1–7

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Matthew 25:1–13

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 11:25–30

²⁵At that time 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; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All 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.

²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Luke 24:13–35

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?" ¹⁹He 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.