



## requiem planning guide

church of the redeemer  
sarasota, florida

## **The Church's Ministry at the Time of Death**

When death occurs in a Christian family, the ministrations of a priest and the services of a funeral director are of immediate and necessary concern. Each has a specific obligation to the deceased and to the bereaved family.

Quite often many persons find themselves under family and social pressure to depart from the burial practices of the Church and may, in fact, lack a clear understanding of them as set forth in the *Book of Common Prayer*. This booklet is designed to assist the bereaved as proper arrangements are made.

### **At the Time of Death**

When a person is near death, and if it is possible, a priest should be notified in order that the "Ministration at the Time of Death" (BCP, pp. 462-7) may be provided. This is commonly called "last rites."

### **Grief and the Resurrection**

"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)

### **General Guidelines**

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible. Arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with a priest.

Communicants in good standing are properly buried from the church, not a funeral home. The service, customarily a Requiem Mass, should be held at a time when the congregation has the opportunity to be present.

In all cases, the family of the deceased should confer first with the priest concerning the funeral arrangements. It is assumed that in requesting the services of a priest of the Episcopal Church the family accepts the discipline and worship of the Church in which the priest was ordained to serve. The priest is responsible to the Bishop of the Diocese for the uniform conduct of the service.

## Specific Guidelines

### Cremation:

Cremation is an acceptable means for one's mortal remains. Interment of ashes is more appropriate than the practice of "scattering." Ashes may be interred in St. Francis Garden. Details are below. Ashes may or may not be present at the service of Christian burial.

### Concerning the coffin at the church:

The coffin, if one is present, must remain closed once it is brought to the church.

### Music:

Only sacred music (texts from Holy Scripture, the *Book of Common Prayer*, *The Hymnal 1982*, or *The Hymnal 1940*) will be allowed. The funeral is first and foremost a service of worship of Almighty God, and the priest is canonically charged to maintain the traditions of the Church in this area. It is most desirable that congregational hymns be sung at funerals.

### Flowers:

If flowers are requested, a member of the Flower Committee of the Altar Guild will contact the person responsible for making funeral arrangements. Flowers will be prepared by members of the Flower Committee of the Altar Guild. No flowers may be placed in the church, except those designated for the adornment of the Altar. Persons are encouraged to make memorial contributions as requested by the family, rather than send flowers. Any flowers delivered to the church will be placed in the narthex.

### Funeral Pall:

The funeral pall is used to cover the coffin in the church to signify that there is no distinction between persons in death. All coffins, no matter what the cost, appear the same when covered by the pall. No flowers are permitted to be placed on top of the pall at any time, while the body is in the church.

### Post-funeral Prayers:

The deceased is customarily remembered at the altar on the Sunday following his or her death, and flowers for that Sunday may be given in memory of the deceased. Communicant members of the parish are remembered annually at mass on the anniversary of their death.

### Planning:

Death is something everyone must face; knowing that, plans should be made that will witness to one's faith and relieve the family of the burden of decision-making at a highly emotional time.

Every church member should have on file at his or her parish church plans for his or her own funeral. It might also be wise to give a copy of instructions to an attorney or a trusted friend. Instructions should not be included in a will or placed in a safe deposit box,, because the family or priest may not have access in time to complete plans for the service.

## Service of Fraternal Orders:

Only official liturgies for the Burial of the Dead may be conducted at a funeral in the Anglican tradition. When fraternal rites are desired, they should be conducted before the church service, either at the home of the deceased, the fraternal meeting place, or the funeral home.

## The Holy Eucharist:

It is appropriate for a church member's death to be observed with a mass. The Church and Holy Scripture teach that the most fitting way to "give thanks for the life of a brother or sister" and to celebrate the continued relationship in the Communion of Saints is by means of the Holy Eucharist. The Requiem need not be a long service; it is always uplifting.

## Fees

It is the Church's privilege to offer requiem masses for the faithful departed. There is never a charge for a funeral. There are, however, certain fees associated with some common practices, and they are outlined below.

Solo Organist	\$275
Organist and Soloist	\$675
Instrumental Accompaniment	<i>available upon request</i>
Choir:	
Professional Quartet	<i>available upon request</i>
Professional Octet	<i>available upon request</i>
Brass	<i>available upon request</i>
Flowers	\$0 (\$300-500 suggested donation)
Interment in St. Francis Garden	\$0
Permanent Memorial Wall Inscription in St. Francis Garden	\$500
Parish Hall Set-Up and Clean-Up Fee	\$150
Parish Hall/Kitchen Usage (members)	\$0
Parish Hall/Kitchen Usage (non-members)	\$450
Usher(s) (when required)	\$0
LiveStream Technician (when required)	\$150
Printing	\$0
Crucifer/Acolytes	\$0
Celebrant	\$0*
Assisting Clergy	\$0*

\*There is no fee for the celebrant and/or other assisting clergy. An honorarium, however, may be made directly to the clergy person(s) involved in the liturgy, but this is not expected. There is, likewise, no charge for flowers, but a suggested donation of \$300-500 is customary, depending on the specific request.

Other than clergy honorariums, fees are payable to Church of the Redeemer.

## The St. Francis Memorial Garden Interment Guidelines

1. Ideally, cremation should be preceded by a service of Christian Burial in the Church, but this is not always practical. For Communicants of this parish, this service should be a Requiem Mass (recommended, not mandatory).
2. For those who choose cremation, interment of ashes in the St. Francis Garden will customarily immediately follow the funeral.
3. There is to be no permanent container for the ashes. The cremains will be buried directly in the soil and covered with sod. Due to this, we recommend that no urn or permanent container of any type be purchased.
4. Names of those buried in the Garden may be inscribed on the memorial wall and in a memorial book kept in the church, stating the date of birth and of death.
5. A memorial contribution of at least \$500.00 is requested for the specific purpose of permanently inscribing the name of the deceased on the memorial wall, and it helps offset the cost of maintaining the fountain and grounds of the St. Francis Garden.

### Planning for the Funeral (to be completed with a member of the clergy)

Decedent's full legal name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of death: \_\_\_\_\_

Communicant of Church of the Redeemer: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ non-communicant (if non-communicant, was the person baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no)

Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Person responsible for funeral arrangements: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to decedent, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact at Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_

The Liturgy

If there is a preference, please indicate the:

Celebrant: \_\_\_\_\_ Preacher: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ The Requiem Mass (Rite One) \_\_\_\_\_ The Requiem Mass (Rite Two)

\_\_\_\_\_ Said \_\_\_\_\_ Sung

Will incense be used? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

\_\_\_\_\_ Burial Office Only (no Eucharist)

\_\_\_\_\_ Interment of ashes \_\_\_\_\_ immediately following the liturgy \_\_\_\_\_ or at a later

date \_\_\_\_\_ in St. Francis Garden \_\_\_\_\_ or at (name of cemetery) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Committal of body at cemetery \_\_\_\_\_ immediately following the liturgy or

at a later date \_\_\_\_\_. Name of cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ no committal or interment of body or ashes

Will ashes be present in the church? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Will the body be present in the church? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Flowers \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no (specific floral preference? \_\_\_\_\_ )

A member of the Flower Committee of the Altar Guild will contact you.

Will there be music at the liturgy? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Will there be a reception after the liturgy? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Will the reception be in Gillespie Hall \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no (catering is the responsibility of the person(s) making funeral arrangements; there is a set-up/clean-up fee for Gillespie Hall)

You may specify, or the parish can provide, the following persons:

Lay Readers: \_\_\_\_\_ (up to three, depending on the number of lessons chosen; the deacon or celebrant reads the Gospel.)

Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_

Acolytes: \_\_\_\_\_

Pall Bearers: \_\_\_\_\_

Lessons from Holy Scripture (one lesson plus the Holy Gospel is the minimum; however, two lessons, a Psalm, and the Gospel may be included. All readings and psalms are printed at the end of this pamphlet.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Revised Standard Version (RSV)

From the Old Testament (select one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 25:6-9 "He shall swallow up death in victory..."

\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 61:1-3 "To comfort all that mourn..."

\_\_\_\_\_ Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-11 "The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him..."

\_\_\_\_\_ Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God..."

\_\_\_\_\_ Job 19:21-27 "I know that my redeemer lives..."

Psalm (select one)

\_\_\_\_\_ 42      \_\_\_\_\_ 121      \_\_\_\_\_ 90      \_\_\_\_\_ 46      \_\_\_\_\_ 130      \_\_\_\_\_ 139

\_\_\_\_\_ 23 (specify traditional language \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ modern usage for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm)

From the New Testament (select one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 "The glory that shall be revealed..."

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-38 "Raised in incorruption..."

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 "Things which are not seen are eternal..."

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 John 3:1-2 "We shall be like Him..."

\_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 7:9-17 "God shall wipe away..."

\_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 21:2-7 "Behold I make all things new..."

The Holy Gospel (select one)

\_\_\_\_\_ John 5:24-27 "He that believeth hath everlasting life..."

\_\_\_\_\_ John 6:37-40 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me..."

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 mansions..."

Music

Commonly used hymns from *The Hymnal 1982* (you may listen to these hymns online)

208	The strife is o'er, the battle done	549	Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
287	For all the saints	558	Faith of our Fathers
304	I come with joy to meet my Lord	560	Blessed are the poor in spirit
356	May choirs of angels lead you	582	O holy city, seen of John
357	Jesus, Son of Mary, fount of life	618	Ye watchers and ye holy ones

372	Praise to the living God	620	Jerusalem, my happy home
390	Praise to the Lord, the almighty	625	Ye holy angels bright
690	Guide me, o thou great Jehovah	636 or 637	How firm a foundation
401	The God of Abraham praise	645	The king of love my shepherd is
423	Immortal, invisible, God only wise	657	Love divine, all loves excelling
448	O love, how deep, how broad, how	664	My shepherd will supply my need
400	All creatures of our God and king	665	All my hope on God is founded
460	Alleluia, sing to Jesus	680	O God, our help in ages past
488	Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart	685	Rock of ages, cleft for me
517	How lovely is thy dwelling place	691	My faith looks up to thee
179	Welcome, happy morning	178	Alleluia...to the risen Lord
199	Come ye faithful, raise the strain	686	Come thou fount of every blessing

Hymns selected \_\_\_\_\_

Additional special music requested \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no (the Organist/Choirmaster will contact you regarding soloist(s), anthems, motets, preludes, postludes, etc.)

Additional Notes \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Priest: \_\_\_\_\_

**First Lesson (select one)**

**[He will swallow up death for ever]**

*Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach 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, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

*or this*

**[To comfort those who mourn]**

*Isaiah 61:1-3*

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to



grant to 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; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

*or this*

**[The Lord is good to those who wait for him]**

*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 thy 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 cast off for ever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the sons of men.

*or this*

**[The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God]**

*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 an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men 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 elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

*or this*

**[I know that my Redeemer lives]**

*Job 19:21-27a*

Job answered, “ 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? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh? Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were graven in the rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

## Psalm (select one)

### **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*

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*

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 my-  
self; \*  
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*

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 1-12*

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: 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 121*

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 defence 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*

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 1-11*

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.

## **Epistle (select one)**

### **[The glory that shall be revealed]**

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

All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. Who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, 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 sure 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.

*or this*

### **[The imperishable body]**

*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 fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 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 delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule 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 some one will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, 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 is it 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 nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy 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 brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

*or this*

### **[Things that are unseen are eternal]**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9*

We do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are 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. Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we sigh with anxiety; not that we would be unclothed, but that we would 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 of good courage; 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. We are of good courage, 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.

*or this*

**[We shall be like him]**

*1 John 3:1-2*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

*or this*

**[God will wipe away every tear]**

*Revelation 7:9-17*

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

*or this*

**[Behold, I make all things new]**

*Revelation 21:2-7*

I saw the holy city, 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, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." And 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 from the fountain of the water of life without payment. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son."

**Gospel reading**

**[He who believes has everlasting life]**

*John 5:24-27*

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

*or this*

**[All that the Father gives me will come to me]**

*John 6:37-40*

Jesus said to the people, " All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. 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 at the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

*or this*

**[I am the good shepherd]**

*John 10:11-16*

Jesus said, " I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd."

*or this*

**[I am the resurrection and the life]**

*John 11:21-27*

Martha said to Jesus, " Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, " Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, " I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, " I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, " Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

*or this*

**[In my Father's house are many rooms]**

*John 14:1-6*

Jesus said, " Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way 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, but by me."