

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Concerning the Service

The Book of Common Prayer, page 507

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.

At the Time of Death

The Book of Common Prayer, page 462

When a person is near death or has died, the Minister of the congregation should be notified, and when possible, the family and friends should come together with the Minister to join in prayer. A Litany and other suitable prayers are provided for *Ministration at the Time of Death* in **The Book of Common Prayer.**

The Funeral

The Book of Common Prayer, page 491

The Rites for the Burial Dead is normally a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with special psalms, readings and prayers for the departed.

Members of the family of the deceased and close friends can take an active part in the service by reading the lessons, leading the prayers of the people and by presenting the Bread and the Wine at the Offertory.

In addition, a member of the family or a close friend of the deceased may give a short eulogy that would be delivered right before the homily. The eulogy must be in writing and should be reviewed by the officiating minister.

The Committal

The Book of Common Prayer, page 501

A brief service usually follows the Requiem Eucharist. This may be at the gravesite when interment follows, or some other appropriate place, depending on the final resting place of the deceased. If cremation follows the funeral, *The Committal* will usually take place a few days

later. If cremation has taken place before the funeral, the ashes will normally be present for the Requiem Eucharist and can be placed following *The Commendation*.

Funeral Homes

We recommend the following funeral homes because of their familiarity with our location and policies:

Van Orsdel (305) 446- 4412
4600 SW 8th St., Coral Gables, FL

Stanfill (305) 667-2518
10545 S Dixie Highway

At the time of death, please have the family or doctor notify the funeral home of choice so that they may begin the appropriate arrangements.

Times of the Service

To help with the practical decisions which must be made, we suggest the time of service be between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. since we must work around St. Philip's Episcopal School's times of arrival and dismissal.

Flowers

Because of the strong simplicity of the sanctuary, the positioning of flowers is limited. The only flowers in the church are those able to be placed on the sanctuary stands provided. If flowers are desired, the church office to arrange with the florist for this service. A statement will be forwarded to the family. The funeral home can also provide this service for the family. Floral sprays and arrangements may be placed in the narthex or reception site.

Music

All music is under the supervision of the Parish Minister of Music who normally approves all musical selections. We suggest themes of triumph, resurrection, strength, thanksgiving, hope and peace-filled repose.

It is the family's responsibility to pay the musician(s) and soloist(s) directly. A fee of \$200 will be required if the family engages the services of the church organist.

Additional Information

In this parish it is customary for the casket to be covered with a pall as it enters the church building. This is large cloth of white brocade with a tapestry cross from which the word “pall bearer” originates. The pall covers all caskets, regardless of design, to symbolize the fact that in the eyes of the Lord we are all equal. The pall is removed after the service and before the casket leaves the church building. In the event that the deceased was a military veteran, the national flag may be used.

It is the custom of the church that the casket be closed at all times while in the building.

When interment follows the Burial Office, it is expected that this, too, will be **The Book of Common Prayer** formulary, standing in its own simplicity and not to be interspersed with fraternal rites. Should such rites be of deep meaning to the families involved, then these should precede the church’s final blessing upon the deceased.

Finally ...

It is important to remember that even in the crisis of death and bereavement your parish clergy may have commitments to other persons or to other services which render a particular day or hour impossible for their participation in the Burial Office service. Therefore, no final arrangement which involves either the clergy or the church should be made before the church has been consulted.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
Last First Middle Name preferred to be called

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone Number: (____)____-____ (____)____-____
Home Business

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Place of Birth: _____, _____

Next of Kin: _____
Name Address Phone Number

Names of Immediate Family Survivors:

Name Address Phone Number

Name Address Phone Number

Name Address Phone Number

Name Address Phone Number

Name Address Phone Number

Names of parents:

Father: _____

Birthplace: _____

Mother: _____

Birthplace: _____

Member of Funeral Society? ____ If so, which one? _____

Education:

High School _____

City _____

Year of _____

Graduation _____

College _____

Year & Degrees

Conferred _____

Military Information:

Branch _____

Years Served _____

Rank Attained _____

Awards & Honors

Received _____

Obituary, Special Information

4. Type of Burial Service

- Funeral Home Visitation Viewing
- No Communion, Burial Office only
- Communion
 - Rite One (Traditional)
 - Rite Two (Contemporary)
- Church then Graveside
- Graveside only
- Other _____

5. I wish:

- To be interred at _____
- To be cremated
 - With ashes inurned at _____
 - With ashes scattered at _____
- To be entombed at _____
- Special Instructions _____

- Arrangements already made
- Arrangements pending

The Episcopal Church has no theological objections to cremation and leaves that decision to the family. For theological and pastoral reasons, it is best for the body or ashes to be present in the church for the burial rite.

6. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations should be given to:

- St. Philip's Episcopal Church

___ St. Philip's Foundation

___ The society engaged in researching the disease which resulted in my death (e.g., the American Cancer Society, Heart, ALS, etc.)

___ Other

7. Arrangements have been made by me for my body (or body parts) to be given to:

- 8. I would like a reception in** ___ the Parish Hall
___ my home
___ elsewhere (please specify)

9. Be sure the following are notified of day, time and place of service:

_____	Phone	_____
_____	Phone	_____
_____	Phone	_____
_____	Phone	_____
_____	Phone	_____
_____	Phone	_____

10. The following persons should be invited to serve as pall bearers:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

11. Additional remarks or further wishes:

**THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD AND
THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

For your convenience, a copy of the Readings and Psalms are attached to the addendum.

At the Burial of the Dead, I request the following Lessons and Psalms

A. ___ Rite One (Traditional)

One or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read.

If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

From the Old Testament (*choose one*)

- ___ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory)
- ___ Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all that mourn)
- ___ Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (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 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer liveth)

Reader _____

A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow.

The following Psalms are appropriate (choose one)

- ___ 42:1-7
- ___ 46
- ___ 90:1-12
- ___ 121
- ___ 130
- ___ 139:1-11

Reader _____

From the New Testament (*choose one*)

- ___ Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- ___ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (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 all tears)
- ___ Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

Reader _____

*A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow.
The following Psalms are appropriate (choose one)*

- 23 King James Version Contemporary
- 27
- 106:1-5
- 116

Reader _____ or Congregation in unison _____

The Gospel *(choose 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)

Reader _____

B. Rite Two (Contemporary)

From the Old Testament *(choose one)*

- 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)
- Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)
- Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

Reader _____

*A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow.
The following Psalms are appropriate (choose one)*

- 42:1-7
- 46
- 90:1-12
- 121
- 130
- 139:1-11

Reader _____ or Congregation in unison _____

From the New Testament *(choose one)*

- Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
- 2 Corinthians 4:16--5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
- 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)

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- John 14:1-6 (In my Father’s house are many rooms)

Reader _____

C. Eulogy Family member _____
 Family Friend _____

Eulogies are generally discouraged. If desired they are limited to 1 and must be limited to less than five (5) minutes and should be written out. In addition, the text should be reviewed by the clergy.

D. Homily Rector
 Other _____

A Homily about the Christian faith is appropriate at a Burial Service.

E. Prayers of the People may be read by a lay person.

Deacon or
Other Clergy or

____ Page 480, Rite One
____ page 497, Rite Two

F. The Oblation bearers might be:

G. Eucharistic Prayer preferred:

____ Rite One __ A __ B
____ Rite Two __ A __ B __ C __ D

H. The Lord's Prayer: __ Traditional __ Contemporary

I. Music

Music is an integral part of the Christian faith and worship. Normally the congregation will sing the usual portions of the service and the hymns. Hymns selected are usually found in the Episcopal Hymnal 1984. They should be selected for both familiarity and ease of singing; they should also reflect the strength and confidence we have in the Risen Lord.

Examples of hymns used in other Burial services are as follows:

- 680 O God our help in ages past
- 526 Let saints on earth in concert sing
- 208 Alleluia, the strife is o'er
- 645 The King of Love my shepherd is
- 287 For all the saints

____ **I request the following hymns, songs or selections of music:**

Prelude	_____
Opening Hymn	_____
Gospel	_____
Offertory	_____
Communion	_____

Commendation	_____
Closing	_____
Postlude	_____

___ **I wish to make the following special request concerning music:**

___	A bagpiper	___	in the procession
		___	at the offertory
		___	in the recession
		___	at the gravesite
___	Other	_____	

___ **I leave the selection of music to the discretion of the clergy and/or minister of music.**

Psalm 42 *Quemadmodum*

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

Psalm 46 *Deus noster refugium*

God is our hope and strength, *

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved,; *

and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof rage and swell, *

and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.

There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God, *

the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.

God is in the midst of her,

therefore shall she not be removed; *

God shall help her, and that right early.

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

I will be exalted among the nations,

and I will be exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 90 *Domine, refugium*

Lord, thou hast been our refuge, *

from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever the earth and the world were made, *

thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

Thou turnest man to destruction; *

again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday

when it is past, *

and as a watch in the night.

As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep, *

and fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green, and groweth up; *

but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.

For we consume away in thy displeasure, *

and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.

Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee, *

and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

For when thou art angry all our days are gone; *

we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.

The days of our age are threescore years and ten;

and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years, *

yet is their strength then but labor and sorrow,

so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.

So teach us to number our days, *

that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; *

from whence cometh my help?

My help cometh even from the Lord, *

who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved, *

and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel *

shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper; *

the Lord is thy 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 *De profundis*

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; *

Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well *

the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, *

O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee, *

therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him; *

in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; *

I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord,

for with the Lord there is mercy, *

and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel *

from all his sins.

Psalm 139 *Domine, probasti*

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

Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising;

thou understandest my thoughts long before.

Thou art about my path, and about my bed, *

and art acquainted with all my ways.

For lo, there is not a word in my tongue, *

but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.

Thou hast beset me behind and before, *

and laid thine hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me; *

I cannot attain unto it.

Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit? *

or whither shall I go then from thy presence?

If I climb up into heaven, thou art there; *

if I go down to hell, thou art there also.

If I take the wings of the morning, *

and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there also shall thy hand lead me, *

and thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me, *

then shall my night be turned to day.

Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee,

but the night is as clear as day; *

the darkness and light to thee are both alike.

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

The Lord is my shepherd; *

therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture, *

and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul, *

and bring me forth 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 comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that trouble me; *

thou hast anointed my head with oil,

and my cup shall be full.

Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; *

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

Psalm 23 *King James Version*

The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

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

I will fear no evil; *

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

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

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

Psalm 27 *Dominus illuminatio*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

whom then shall I fear? *

the Lord is the strength of my life;

of whom then shall I be afraid?

One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require, *

even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

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

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle; *

yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me,

and set me up upon a rock of stone.

And now shall he lift up mine head *

above mine enemies round about me.

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

I will sing and speak praises unto the Lord.

Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee; *

have mercy upon me, and hear me.

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

Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

O hide not thou thy face from me, *

nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

I should utterly have fainted, *

but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

O tarry thou the Lord's leisure; *

be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart;

and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

Psalm 106 *Confitemini Domino*

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious, *

and his mercy endureth for ever.

Who can express the noble acts of the Lord, *

or show forth all his praise?

Blessed are they that always keep judgment, *

and do righteousness.

Remember me, O Lord, according to the favor that thou

bearest unto thy people; *

O visit me with thy salvation;

That I may see the felicity of thy chosen, *

and rejoice in the gladness of thy people,

and give thanks with thine inheritance.

Psalm 116 *Dilexi, quoniam*

My delight is in the Lord, *

because he hath heard the voice of my prayer;

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, *

therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

The snares of death compassed me round about, *

and the pains of hell gat hold upon me.

I found trouble and heaviness;

then called I upon the Name of the Lord; *

O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; *

yea, our God is merciful.

The Lord preserveth the simple; *

I was in misery, and he helped me.

Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul, *

for the Lord hath rewarded thee.

Any why? thou hast delivered my soul from death, *

mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord *

in the land of the living.

I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people; *

right dear in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Isaiah 25:6-9

forever]

[He will swallow up death

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

[To comfort those who mourn]

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

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

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

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 19:21-27a **[I know that my Redeemer lives]**

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, 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.”

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

[The glory that shall be revealed]

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

[The imperishable body]

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our

Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 **[Things that are unseen are eternal]**

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being

renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

1 John 3:1-2 **[We shall be like him]**

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

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

Revelation 21:2-7 **[Behold, I make all things new]**

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

John 5:24-27 **[He who believes has everlasting life]**

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

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

John 10:11-16 **[I am the good shepherd]**

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

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

John 14:1-6

[In my Father's house are many rooms]

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

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