

An Order for Christian Funerals

THE CHURCH IN WALES
YR EGLWYS YNG NGHYMRU



The Funeral Service

AT THE EUCHARIST

Sentence(s)

Introduction

The Preparation / The Gathering of the People

The Prayers [omitting the Lesser Litany and Lord's Prayer]

The Ministry of the Sacrament

Post Communion sentence and prayer

The Commendation

The Conclusion

WHEN THE EUCHARIST IS NOT CELEBRATED

Sentence(s)

Introduction

The Psalm

The Reading(s)

The Prayers

The Commendation

The Conclusion

Hymns and songs may be added at appropriate points and Psalms may be sung in metrical, responsorial or alternative chanted versions.

An Order for Christian Funerals

1 THE RECEPTION OF THE BODY INTO CHURCH

At the beginning of the funeral

The Minister, meeting the body at the entrance to the churchyard, or at the church door, goes before while one or more of these sentences, or of the psalms following, is said or sung.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord: he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. **(John 11: 25-26)**

I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. **(Job 19: 25-27)**

Let not your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you, for I go to prepare a place for you. And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. **(John 14: 1-3)**

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. **(Romans 14: 8-9)**

We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. **(1 Timothy 6: 7, Job 1: 21)**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **(1 Peter 1: 3)**

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. **(Deuteronomy 33: 27)**

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. **(Lamentations 3: 22-23)**

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. **(Matthew 5:4)**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. **(John 3: 16)**

Jesus said, All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life. **(John 6: 37-40)**

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor power, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **(Romans 8: 38 -39)**

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him. **(1 Corinthians 2: 9)**

We believe that Jesus died and rose again; and so it will be for those who died as Christians; God will bring them to life with Jesus. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Comfort one another with these words. **(1 Thessalonians 4: 14 -18)**

PSALM 27: 1, 4-6, 11-12, 14-17

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 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.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer
in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody
to the Lord.

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

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

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

PSALM 130

Our of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord hear my voice;*
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,*

O Lord who could stand?

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

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

My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night-watch for the morning,*
more than the night-watch for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the Lord,*

for with the Lord there is mercy;
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

If not used in the Procession, either of these psalms may be used before the Lesson when the body is brought into church on the eve of the burial, or in place of the psalms in The Service in Church if the Eucharist is not celebrated.

2 READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE EVE OF BURIAL

When the body is brought into church on the eve of burial, one of the lessons printed in section 5 shall be read.

The Minister says:

The Lord be with you;
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayers from section 6, including one of the following:

Father of all, we pray to thee for those we love, but now no longer see. Grant them thy peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of thy perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who didst rest in the sepulchre and didst thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people: make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins which were the cause of thy passion, that, when our bodies lie in the dust, we may live with thee; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptised into the death of thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for his merits, who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of grace and glory, we remember before you our **brother/sister N**. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until we are reunited with those who have died in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Lord of life and conqueror of death: we give you thanks for the hope of eternal life given to us by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that all who mourn the loss of those dear to them may know his peace and share his victory; for his name's sake. **Amen.** *(Joint Liturgical Group)*

Father in heaven, we praise your name for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you, for the example of their lives, the life and grace you gave them, and the peace in which they rest. We praise you today for your servant **N**. and for all that you did through **him/her**. Meet us in our sadness and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving, for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

One of the following endings:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

May the love of God bless and console us, and gently wipe away every tear from our eyes: and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

(Roman Catholic Church, modified)

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; [and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.] **Amen.**

The two preceding sections of this Order, or any part of them, may also be used for prayers in the house, where this is a local custom.

3 THE SERVICE IN CHURCH *if it is the Eucharist*

When all are assembled, the Minister may say the following or another appropriate introduction

We have come together to commend our **brother/sister N.** into the hands of Almighty God our heavenly Father. In the presence of death, Christians have sure ground for hope and confidence, and even for joy, because the Lord Jesus Christ, who shared our human life and death, was raised again triumphant and lives for evermore. In him his people find eternal life, and, in this faith, we put our whole trust in his goodness and mercy.

The order for the Holy Eucharist now begins.

THE COLLECT

One of the following Collects shall be used:

For an Adult:

O God, maker and redeemer of all, grant to your whole Church, living and departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion, that we may pass through death to a joyful resurrection, through him who died and was raised for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, the maker and Redeemer of all believers: grant to thy servant **N.** and all the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of thy Son's passion; that, in the day of his appearing, they may be manifested as thy children; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and hast delivered us from the power of our enemy by his glorious resurrection: grant us so to die daily unto sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For a Child:

O God, we entrust **N.** to your love and care. Bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD/NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

An Old Testament or New Testament reading from the list in Section 5.

The reader says

A reading from

Silence follows the reading.

The reader may then say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

One of the following psalms or anthems may be used:

PSALM 116: 3-8

**The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me;*
I came to grief and sorrow.
Then I called upon the name of the Lord:*
'O Lord, I pray you, save my life.'
Gracious is the Lord and righteous;*
our God is full of compassion.
The Lord watches over the innocent;*
I was brought very low and he helped me.
Turn again to your rest, O my soul,*
for the Lord has treated you well.
For you have rescued my life from death,*
my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling.**

EASTER ANTHEMS 3-8

**Christ once raised from the dead dies no more*
death has no more dominion over him.
In dying he died to sin once for all,*
in living he lives to God.
See yourselves therefore as dead to sin*
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Christ has been raised from the dead,*
the first fruits of those who sleep.
For as by man came death,*
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;
for as in Adam all die,*
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

THE GOSPEL

A Gospel taken from those printed in section 5.

The reader says:

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

After the Gospel the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

AFTER COMMUNION

After the Communion the following shall be said:

He hath given food unto them that fear him;

He shall be ever mindful of his covenant.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast given unto us thy Son Jesus Christ to be the bread of life eternal; grant that all we who are partakers of his body and blood may at the last day be raised up in him; who lives and reigns with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Service in Church continues with the Commendation and Conclusion.

4 THE SERVICE IN CHURCH *if the Eucharist is not celebrated*

This service may be used at the graveside or in the chapel of the crematorium or cemetery.

When all are assembled, the Minister may say the following or another appropriate introduction:

We have come together to commend our **brother/sister N.** into the hands of Almighty God our heavenly Father. In the presence of death, Christians have sure ground for hope and confidence, and even for joy, because the Lord Jesus Christ, who shared our human life and death, was raised again triumphant and lives for evermore. In him his people find eternal life, and, in this faith, we put our whole trust in his goodness and mercy.

One or more of the following psalms shall be said or sung. Before and after any psalm or group of psalms this antiphon may be said or sung.

O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us: save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd;*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures*

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul*

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

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

I shall fear no evil;*

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

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

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

PSALM 90: 1-6, 10, 12-17

Lord you have been our refuge*

from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or the land and the earth were born,*

from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say,*

'Go back, child of earth.'

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past*

and like a watch in the night.

[You sweep us away like a dream;*
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes;*
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;*
yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
So teach us to number our days*
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?*"
be gracious to your servants.
Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;*
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us*
and the years in which we suffered adversity.]

Show your servants your works*
and your splendour to your children.
May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;*
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

PSALM 103: 1-4, 13-18

Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
and forget not all his benefits.
He forgives all your sins*
and heals all your infirmities,
He redeems your life from the grave*
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness.
As a father cares for his children,*
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
For he himself knows whereof we are made;*
he remembers that we but dust.
Our days are like the grass;*
we flourish like a flower of the field;
When the wind goes over it, it is gone,*
and its place shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever
on those who fear him,*
and his righteousness on children's children;
On those who keep his covenant*
and remember his commandments and do them.

PSALM 121

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

PSALM 139: 1-11

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;*
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting-places*
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,*
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You press upon me behind and before*
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me*
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
Where can I go from your Spirit?*
where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;*
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning*
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me*
and your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me,*
and the light around me turn to night',
Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;*
darkness and light to you are both alike.

5 A BIBLE READING OR READINGS

The reader says

A reading from

Silence follows the reading.

The reader may then say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The following readings marked with an asterisk are appropriate at the funeral of a child*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8; *A time for everything*

Isaiah 25: 6-9; 26: 3, 4; *He will swallow up death for ever*

*Isaiah 61: 1-3; *Good news for the broken hearted*

Lamentations 3: 22-26, 31-33; *The love of the Lord never ends*

Wisdom of Solomon 3: 1-9; *No torment will touch them*

*Matthew 5: 1-12a; *The Beatitudes*

*Matthew 11: 25-30; *I will give you rest*

*Matthew 18: 1-5, 10; *The greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven*

*Mark 10: 13-16; *Let the children come to me*

Mark 15: 33-39, 16: 1-7; *Christ's death and resurrection*

Luke 24: 13-16, (17-27), 28-35; *The road to Emmaus*

John 5: 24-29 and 6: 37-40; *Seeing the Son and believing in him*

John 6: 53-58; *He who eats this bread will live for ever*

*John 10: 11-16; *I am the good Shepherd*

John 11: 21-27; *I am the resurrection and the life*

John 14: 1-6, 18, 19; *I am the way, the truth and the life*

John 20: 1-9, (10-18); *The risen Christ*

Romans 8: 31-39; *Nothing will separate us from God's love in Christ*
Romans 14: 7-9, (10-13, 16, 17); *The Lord of the dead and of the living*
1 Corinthians 15: 3-20; *Witness to the risen Christ*
1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 35-38, (39-41), 42-58; *Death, where is your victory?*
2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5: 9; *Incomparable glory*
Philippians 3: 7-11, (12-21); *The power of Christ's resurrection*
(Citizens of heaven)
2 Timothy 2: 8-13; *We shall live with Christ*
*1 Peter 1: 3-9; *A living hope*
*1 John 3: 1,2 ; *God's children*
*1 John 4: 7-18a; *God is love*
Revelation 7: 9-17; *God will wipe away every tear*
Revelation 20: 11-13; *The book of life*
*Revelation 21: 1-7; *The new Jerusalem*

6 THE PRAYERS

The Minister says:

The Lord be with you;
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

* Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

KNEEL/SIT

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
[For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.]**

** The Lesser Litany and Lord's Prayer may be used either at this point or at the point indicated after the Committal.*

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ;
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death;
Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father;
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants;
Whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with thy saints;
In glory everlasting.

One or more of these prayers and/or a litany may be added here or after the Committal:

1. Be gracious, Lord, to this **our brother/sister** departed, that, loosed from the bonds of sin and death, **he/she** may be perfected by thy grace and enter into life everlasting: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
2. Almighty God, who hast revealed thy only-begotten Son as the resurrection and the life: raise us, we pray thee, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that, when we depart this life, we may rest in him, as we hope our **brother/sister** does, and, at the last, we may receive the blessing: Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. Grant this, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. **Amen.**
3. Heavenly Father, who in thy Son Jesus Christ hast given us a true faith and a sure hope: help us, we pray thee, to live as those who believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting; and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the days of our life: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4. Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray thee, with those who mourn, that casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
5. We thank you, Lord God, for the grace you gave to those who lived according to your will and are now at rest. We pray that their good example may encourage and guide us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
6. God of all mercy, in love you gave us your Son to conquer death and restore eternal life to your people. Comfort your servants in their sorrow, and strengthen our faith and hope in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
7. **Heavenly Father,
you are our refuge and strength.
Help and comfort us today;
increase our faith,
dispel our fears,
revive our hope.
May the Holy Spirit lift us
from the darkness of our grief
to the light of your presence:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
8. *Suitable at the Committal*
Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening, into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house where shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise or silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end. **Amen.** *(John Donne)*
9. Let us turn to Christ our Lord with confidence and trust in the power of his cross and resurrection.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Risen Lord, pattern of our life on earth and of what we shall be;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Son of God, who came to destroy the power of sin and death;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Gentle Shepherd, who brings rest to our souls;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Merciful Saviour, bless those who mourn this *day (night)*;
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. *(Order of Christian Funerals, modified)*

10. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. In humble trust we ask him to save all people, living and departed.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant that all who have been baptised into Christ may be dead to sin and alive to God, that, through the grave and gate of death, we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant to all who mourn sure trust in your fatherly care, that casting all their grief on you, they may know the consolation of your love.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. *(Canada, modified)*

11. Lord Jesus Christ, you know the thoughts of our hearts, you share our joys and our sorrows; deepen our faith and sustain us in this dark hour.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for **N.** and dry the tears of all who weep
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Lord, you wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend;
comfort us also in our sorrow.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

[Lord, your child **N.** was washed in the waters of baptism, and anointed with the Holy Spirit; grant **him/her** fellowship with all your saints.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.]

[Lord, you nourished **N.** with your Body and blood; grant **him/her** a place at the table in your kingdom

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.]

[Lord, your **deacon/priest/bishop N.** led your people in prayer and worship; may **he/she** now share in the worship of heaven.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.]

Lord, let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

(USA, modified)

12. Almighty Father, Creator God, source and goal of every life:

have mercy upon us.

Jesus Christ, crucified Saviour and living Lord, companion and guide:

have mercy upon us.

Holy Spirit, by whose power we are renewed, and by whose light we may walk without doubt or fear:

have mercy upon us.

In the weakness of our faith, the shallowness of our hope, and our lack of love:

have mercy upon us.

When we keep our gifts to ourselves, and endeavour to live without you:

have mercy upon us.

Because you have made us for yourself:

we thank you, Lord.

Because you hold all souls in life:

we thank you, Lord.

Because in all our griefs and troubles you refresh us, leading us by the waters of comfort:

we thank you, Lord.

>>

Because by the resurrection of your Son you have given us the assurance of faith, the light of hope and the power of love:

we thank you, Lord.

(Walter Williams)

13. In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(New Zealand modified)

14. *Before or after a scripture reading (see also 15)*
 Help us, Lord, to receive and understand your word, so that we may find light in our darkness, faith in our doubt, and comfort for one another in your saving words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
15. *Before or after a scripture reading (see also 14)*
 O gracious Lord, help us to listen lovingly to your Word, that we may find comfort in our grief, light in our darkness, and faith in the midst of doubt; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(Joint Liturgical Group)*
16. Lord of all gentleness, grant us grace to entrust **N.** to your unfailing love; receive **him/her** into the arms of your mercy, and grant us with **him/her** a share in your kingdom. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
17. Father in heaven, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to suffering and death on the cross, and raised him to life in glory: grant us a patient faith in time of darkness, and strengthen our hearts with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(Alternative Service Book)*
18. Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that men and women are made in your image, and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life you gave to **N.**, for the love and mercy **he/she** received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at the gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. So we ask that, in due time, we may share with all our brothers and sisters that clearer vision, when we shall your face in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(Alternative Service Book)*
19. Father in heaven, we thank you because you made us in your own image and gave us gifts in mind, body and spirit. We thank you now for **N.** and what **he/she** meant to each of us. As we honour **his/her** memory, make us more aware that you are the one from whom comes every perfect gift, including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
20. *Suitable at the Committal*
 Lord, you alone are the source of life: may your life-giving Spirit flow through us, granting us compassion one for another. In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace, and kindle our hope, that our grief may give way to joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(Australia, modified)*

21. *Suitable at the Committal (see also 22)*
 Eternal Father, God of all comfort: in your unending mercy you have turned the darkness of death into the dawn of life, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant us the faith to go forward with him, that after this life we may be united with our brothers and sisters in Christ, where there shall be no more tears or pain; through him who is the light of life, Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.** *(Australia, modified)*
22. *Suitable at the Committal (see also 21)*
 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor human heart conceived, God has prepared for those who love him.'
 God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.
 Show compassion to your people in their sorrow. Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief to the peace and light of your presence.
 Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ by dying for us, conquered death, and by rising again, restored us to life: may we then go forward eagerly to meet him and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters where every tear will be wiped away.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
(Promise of His Glory/Australia/Canada modified)
23. *Suitable at the Committal*
 O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shades lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
(John Henry Newman, modified)
24. *Suitable at the Committal:*
 Holy and eternal is our God: all-powerful and all-wise.
 Loving and merciful is our God: close to us in our sorrows and our needs.
 For those who journey through this world with Jesus as their Guide, life eternal, rest and deepest joy wait to crown their pilgrimage.
 Holy and eternal is our God: fountain of life and shepherd of souls, merciful judge and Saviour of all. **Amen.** *(Walter Williams)*
25. *Suitable at the Committal*
 Dear Father of life, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in you. Grant us so to love and serve you, and live each day for you, that we may, at the last, reach out for you and know that we are loved, open our hearts to you and know that we are forgiven; and so, loved and accepted, we may rest in you; through the love of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.** *(Walter Williams, after Augustine)*

26. Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant **N**. Acknowledge, we pray a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive **him/her** into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.** *(Canada)*
27. Grant to us, Lord God, to trust not for ourselves alone, but for those also whom we love and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death; that, as we believe your power to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, so we may trust your love to give eternal life to all who believe in him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**
(Promise of His Glory: Mowbray/Cassell/David Silk)

7 THE COMMENDATION

The Minister, standing, says:

Let us commend our **brother/sister N**. into the hands of God, our Maker and Redeemer.

Either

O God our heavenly Father, who by thy mighty power hast given us life, and by thy loving-kindness hast bestowed upon us new life in Christ Jesus: we commend to thy merciful keeping **N. our brother/sister**, through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who died and rose again to save us, and now lives and reigns with thee in glory for ever. **Amen.**

Or

O God our heavenly Father, by your mighty power you have given us life, and by your loving-kindness you have bestowed new life on us in Christ Jesus: we commend to your merciful keeping **N. our brother/sister**, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who died and rose again to save us, and now lives and reigns with you in glory for ever. **Amen.**

8 THE CONCLUSION

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints;
Where sorrow and pain are no more,
Neither sighing but life everlasting.

Thou only art immortal,
The Creator and Maker of man;
And we are mortal, formed of the earth,

And unto earth shall we return:
For so thou didst ordain
When thou createdst me, saying,
Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.
All we go down to the dust;
And, weeping o'er the grave, we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Or

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Or

Grant *him/her*, O Lord, eternal rest;
And let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*.

Or

Let us go forth in peace,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

9 THE COMMITTAL

If the ground in which the burial is to take place is not consecrated, the Priest says, immediately before the Committal, the prayer provided for the Blessing of the Grave, [page 32].

At the place of the committal of the body, the Minister says:

Either

In the midst of life we are in death;
of whom may we seek for succour but of thee, O Lord,
who for our sins art justly displeased?
Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
deliver us from the bitterness of eternal death.
Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer;
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal,
suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from thee.

Or

PSALM 103: 13-17a

As a father cares for his children,*
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
For he himself knows whereof we are made;*
he remembers that we are but dust.
Our days are like the grass;*
we flourish like a flower of the field;
When the wind goes over it, it is gone,*
and its place shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever*
on those who fear him.

If the Commendation has not already been used, it is used here.

Then the Minister says:

In the faith of Christ, and believing that our **brother/sister** is in the hands of God, we commit **his/her** body.

(at the grave) to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,

(at cremation) to be cremated, [earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust],

(at sea) to the deep,

in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our corruptible body, that it may be like unto his glorious body, according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

“I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth; Blessed indeed! says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours.”
(Revelation 14:13)

If it has not already been used in the Prayers, shall be added:

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

[For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.]

Any others of the Prayers in Section 6 which have not been used already may be used here.

10 THE CONCLUSION

May God's help remain with us always, and may the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

Or

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may be filled with hope. To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

Or

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Or

May the God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make us perfect in every good deed to do his will,
creating in us what is pleasing to him,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Or

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

Or

Almighty God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in believing.

NOTE. The Service in the Church, excluding the Commendation, may be used as a Memorial Service. One of the Conclusions which follow the Commendation should be used to end the service.

If a sermon is to be preached, it shall follow the Lesson, or, if the Service in Church is a celebration of the Eucharist, the Sermon shall follow the Gospel.

The Order for the Burial of Ashes after Cremation is to be found in Section 17.

11 THE ORDER FOR THE FUNERAL OF A CHILD

The Minister, meeting the body and going before it, either into the church or towards the grave, says one or more of these sentences:

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.
(John 11: 25, 26)

I am the good shepherd: I know my own and my own know me. **(John 10:14)**

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. **(Matthew 5: 8)**

Let not your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling-places; if it were not so, I would have told you, for 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.
(John 14: 1-3)

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.
(1 John 3: 2)

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.
(Romans 14: 8, 9)

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.
(Revelation 7: 17)

In church, the Eucharist may now be celebrated.

An Old Testament or New Testament reading and Gospel are selected from the list in Section 5.

The Eucharist shall be followed by the Commendation.

If the Eucharist is not celebrated, the service continues as follows:

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd;*

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures*

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul*

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

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

I shall fear no evil;*

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

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

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

12 A BIBLE READING OR READINGS

The reader says

A reading from

Silence follows the reading.

The reader may then say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

See section 5 for the list of appropriate readings.*

A hymn may be sung.

13 THE PRAYERS

The Lord be with you:
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

* Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
[For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.]**

** The Lesser Litany and the Lord's Prayer may be used either at this point or at the point indicated after the Committal.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who through thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised us eternal life; grant us steadfastly to believe that this child is safe in the protection of thy eternal love; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Or

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have promised us eternal life in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: help us firmly to believe that **this child/N.** is safe in the protection of your eternal love; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Other prayers, from among the following or those in Section 6, may be said at the minister's discretion, either here or after the Committal.

1. Father, whose Son Jesus Christ took children into his arms and blessed them: give us grace to entrust **N.** to your care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
2. Lord God, from whom human sadness is never hidden, you know the burden of our grief at the loss of **this child/N.** As we mourn **his/her** passing from this life, comfort us with the knowledge that **he/she** now lives in your loving embrace. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**
3. Lord God, you entrusted **N.** to our care, and you now embrace **him/her** in your love. Take **him/her** into your safe keeping together with all children who have died. Comfort us, your sorrowing servants, who seek to do your will and to know your saving peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
4. *For the parents*
God of love, comfort **N.** (and **N.**) in their distress, that **they** may hold to you through good and ill, and trust in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
5. *For the parents*
Lord, whose ways are beyond understanding, listen to the prayers of your people, that those weighed down by grief at the loss of **this child/N.** may find comfort in their distress; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
6. *For the parents*
Lord God, Mary the mother of Jesus stood by the cross while her son was dying. May that same Jesus, victorious over death, give comfort to **N.** and **N.** and strengthen their faith in you; we ask this in his name. **Amen.**
7. *For the parents*
God of compassion, you alone can heal our broken hearts; you alone can wipe away the tears that well up within us; you alone can give us the peace that we need; you alone can give us the strength to carry on. We ask you to be near **N.** (and **N.**) and all those for whom joy has turned to sadness. Help us to know your presence with us; encourage us by your strength, and deepen our love for one another by the knowledge of your love for us all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
8. *For the parents of a child dying before birth*
Lord, we thank you for the love in which **this child/N** was conceived, and for the love of the home into which **he/she** was to be born. We pray that the love of **N. and N.**, **his/her** parents may grow and deepen in the days to come. Give us grace to trust in you, O Lord, our only refuge and our strength in trouble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

9. *For the parents of a child dying before birth*
Father in heaven, healer of the broken-hearted, look in pity and compassion on these your servants **N.** and **N.** whose joy has been turned into mourning. Comfort them, and grant that in their distress they may draw nearer to each other and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
(Joint Liturgical Group modified)
10. *For the mother*
Loving Father, in your mercy you have brought **N.** safely through childbirth. We pray that she will know your strength today, and remain in your protection always; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**
(Alternative Service Book)
11. Lord of all, we thank you for your work in creation, for nourishing life in the womb, for your love even unto death. We thank you for the life of **this child/N.** whom you gave to us and have taken to yourself. We thank you for the arms of your love embracing both us and **N.** in your family. Take our sadness and fill us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth and join your saints in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
12. Lord, you love us from all eternity, and formed us in our mother's womb. We give thanks for **this child/N.** for the wonder of **his/her** being, so closely knit with ours. Help us now as we entrust **him/her** to you, knowing that **he/she** is safe in your care. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
13. Heavenly Father, our companion, whose love is always with us, even when we enter the dark mystery of suffering and loss; we turn to you now in faith, and ask you to give to our beloved child **N.** the protection of your love. Comfort us Father, and lead **him/her** to joy and fulfilment in your heavenly kingdom, by the power of the love revealed to us in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
(Walter Williams)
14. Almighty God, whose kingdom we cannot receive unless we be as children, we thank you for the gift of **this little child/N.** We thank you for the love and trust which **he/she** inspired in the hearts of those to whom **he/she** came: for the joy which **he/she** has given to all who knew **him/her**, and for the precious memories of **him/her** that will abide. Look in compassion upon your servants whose joy has been turned into mourning; dwell with them and be their refuge until the day breaks and the shadows fall away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

14 THE COMMENDATION

To you, O holy God and loving Father, we commend **N**, praying that in your own good time we may rejoice with **him/her** in your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

15 THE COMMITTAL

If the ground in which the burial is to take place is not consecrated, the Priest says, immediately before the Committal, the prayer provided for the Blessing of the Grave [page 32].

At the place of the committal of the body, the Minister says:

PSALM 103: 13-17a

As a parent cares for his children,*
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
For he himself knows whereof we are made;*
he remembers that we are but dust.
Our days are like the grass;*
we flourish like a flower of the field;
When the wind goes over it, it is gone,*
and its place shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever*
on those who fear him.

In the faith of Christ, and believing that our **this child, N**, is in the hands of God, we commit **his/her** body.

(at the grave) to the ground, [earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust],

(at cremation) to be cremated,

(at sea) to the deep,

in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our corruptible body, that it may be like unto his glorious body, according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

If it has not already been used in the Prayers, shall be added:

* Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
[For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.]**

Any others of the Prayers from sections 16 and/or 13 which have not been used already may be used here.

16 THE CONCLUSION

Now to him who can keep us from falling and set us in the presence of his glory, jubilant and above reproach, to the only God or Saviour, be glory and majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time, now, and for ever. **Amen** **(Jude 24, 25)**

17 THE BURIAL OF ASHES AFTER CREMATION

When cremated remains are to be buried in consecrated ground, cremation may take place without any formal service. In this case the form of Committal shall be used at the burial of the cremated remains.

The Service in Church may either precede or follow the cremation.

The ashes of Christians should be buried in consecrated ground, except where burial is at sea.

When ashes are to be buried and the Committal has been used at the Crematorium, the Minister may first use the Service in Church, with any of the Prayers.

At the place of burial, the Minister says:

Believing that our **brother/sister N.** is at rest in Christ, and rejoicing in the communion of saints, we commit **his/her** ashes to the ground, to the ground, [earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,] in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Bible reading may be added, from those in Section 5.

This may follow:

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

[For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.]

Any other of the Prayers from sections 6 and/or 13 which have not been used already may be used here.

Conclusion:

To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

18 THE BLESSING OF A GRAVE

This prayer shall be used before the Committal when burial takes place in unconsecrated ground.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless this grave to be the resting-place of the body of thy servant; through the same thy blessed Son, who is the resurrection and the life, and who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

19 ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. *The Sermon should normally follow the Bible reading(s). It may sometimes be appropriate for the minister to allow a person who knew the deceased well to speak briefly of the deceased before or at the beginning of the service.*
2. *Cremated remains should always be buried in the ground, either in a degradable casket or loose, or at sea. Ashes should not be scattered, nor may a cleric of the Church in Wales permit this to take place in any churchyard under his or her control.*

20 BIBLE READINGS (NRSV, unless otherwise stated)

* *Suitable for the funeral of a child*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8; *A time for everything*

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven;
² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Isaiah 25: 6-9; 26: 3, 4; *He will swallow up death for ever*

⁶ 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.
⁷ 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 for ever.
⁸ 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.
⁹ 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.
³ Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace -
in peace because they trust in you.
⁴ Trust in the Lord for ever,
for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 61: 1-3; *Good news for the broken hearted

¹ 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 broken hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ 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 love of the Lord never ends*

²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
²⁵ The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
³¹ For the Lord will not reject for ever.
³² Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
³³ for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom of Solomon 3: 1-9; *No torment will touch them*

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
² In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
³ and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
⁴ For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
⁵ Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;

⁶ like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

⁷ In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

⁸ They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.

⁹ 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.

*** Matthew 5: 1-12a; *The Beatitudes***

¹ Jesus went up the mountain and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is
the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds
of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."

*** Matthew 11: 25-30; *I will give you rest***

²⁵ 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: ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

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

*** Matthew 18: 1-5, 10; *The greatest in the kingdom of heaven***

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² He called a child, whom he put among them, ³ and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever welcomes one such in my name welcomes me.

¹⁰ "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven."

*** Mark 10: 13-16; *Let the children come to me***

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 15: 33-39; 16: 1-7; *Christ's death and resurrection*

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

³ They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

Luke 24: 13-16, (17-27), 28:35; *The road to Emmaus*

¹³ On the day of the Resurrection, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all the things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him.

[¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ Jesus 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, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.]

²⁸ As they came near to the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ They they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

John 5: 24-29; 6. 37-40; *Seeing the Son and believing in him*

²⁴ 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 judgement, but has passed from death to life. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son

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

³⁷ "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸ for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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 6: 53-58; *He who eats this bread will live for ever*

⁵³ Jesus said, "Very truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever."

John 10: 11-16; *I am the good Shepherd*

¹¹ Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ 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*

²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him. "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ 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, 18, 19; *I am the way, the truth and the life*

¹ Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² 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? ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live."

John 20: 1-9, (10-19); *The risen Christ*

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

[Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord;" and she told them that he had said these things to her.]

Romans 8: 31-39; *Nothing will separate us from God's love in Christ*

³¹ What then are we to say [about these things]? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He 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? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 14: 7-9, (10-13, 16, 17); *The Lord of the dead and of the living*

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

[¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God. ¹³ Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another.

¹⁶ So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.]

1 Corinthians 15: 3-20; *Witness to the risen Christ*

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas [Peter], then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them - though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 35-38, (39-41), 42-58; *Death, where is your victory?*

²⁰ Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

[³⁹ Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.]

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

⁵⁴ 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," ⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4: 16 - 5.9; *Incomparable glory (G.N.B.)*

¹⁶ We never become discouraged, even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day. ¹⁷ And this small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. ¹⁸ For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time but what cannot be seen lasts for ever.

¹ For we know that when this tent we live in - our body here on earth - is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a house he himself has made, which will last for ever. ² And now we sigh, so great is our desire that our homes which come from heaven should be put on over us; ³ by being clothed with it we shall not be without a body. ⁴ While we live in this earthly tent, we groan with a feeling of oppression; it is not that we want to get rid of our earthly body, but that we want to have the heavenly one put on over us, so that what is mortal will be transformed by life. ⁵ God is the one who has prepared us for this change, and he gave us his Spirit as the guarantee of all that he has in store for us.

⁶ So we are always full of courage. We know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord's home. ⁷ For our life is a matter of faith, not of sight. ⁸ We are full of courage and would much prefer to leave our home in the body and be at home in the Lord. ⁹ More than anything else, however, we want to please him, whether in our home here or there.

Philippians 3: 7-11, (12-21); *The power of Christ's resurrection (Citizens of heaven)*

⁷ Whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that

comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

[¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ: I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.]

2 Timothy 2; 8-13; *We shall live with Christ*

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David - that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure: 'If we have died with him, we also will live with him: ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him: if we deny him, he will also deny us; ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful - for he cannot deny himself.'

*** 1 Peter 1: 3-9; *A living hope***

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith - being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

* **1 John 3: 1, 2;** *God's children*

¹ 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. ² 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.

* **1 John 4: 7-18a;** *God is love*

⁷ Beloved, let us love on another, because love is from God: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

* **Revelation 7: 9-17;** *God will wipe away every tear*

⁹ [In my vision], 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.

¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ 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 worshipped God, ¹² singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the centre 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 20: 11-13; *The book of life*

¹¹ [In my vision,] I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done.

*** Revelation 21: 1-7; *The new Jerusalem***

¹ [In my vision,] I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ 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; ⁴ 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.”

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