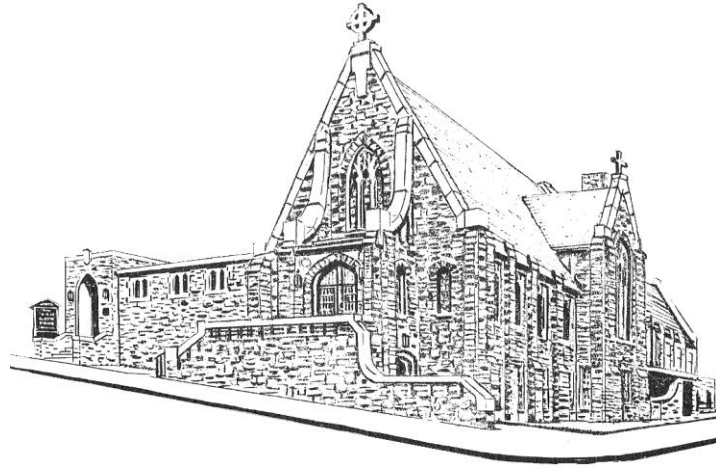


The Rites of Christian Burial And Memorial Services

at



Christ Episcopal Church Bluefield, West Virginia

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

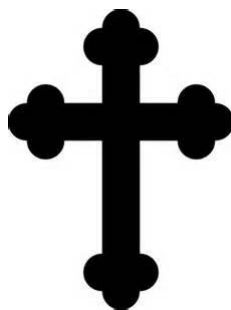
Book of Common Prayer page 504

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A complete copy of the services from The Book of Common Prayer can be found at:

Rite I: <http://www.bcponline.org/PastoralOffices/BurialI.htm>

Rite II: <http://www.bcponline.org/PastoralOffices/BurialII.htm>

Introduction

This booklet has been designed for both those who have just lost a loved one and are planning a memorial service, as well as for those who want to begin thinking, praying and planning for their own funeral or memorial service. This guide seeks to provide practical information about the burial service and address the questions of what we are doing and why in the Episcopal Church.

The Service: A Celebration and Thanksgiving

In the Episcopal Church, a memorial service is a celebration of the Resurrection. 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.* (Romans 8:39)

This joy, however, does not diminish the very real grief that we feel. The same 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, Lazarus. 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.

Because the memorial service is first and foremost an act of Christian worship, it is subject to the same standards as the weekly liturgies at Christ Church. The clergy in charge will be the final authority for any special requests.

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has an opportunity to be present.

The following pages are designed to facilitate the planning of a memorial service during a very difficult time and constitute the customs of Christ Episcopal Church. There are provisions in the Book of Common Prayer for the appropriate scripture readings, psalms and hymns for the service. Those same suggestions are also provided in this booklet. Please choose those which will make this service the right one for the celebration of the life of the departed and a fitting memorial in the hearts and minds of those who mourn.

The Prayer Book Service

Christ Church uses the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church (published in 1979) for its services, memorial services included.

The burial liturgy is found in the Book of Common Prayer on pages 491-505. This is the service that is used in most situations although some variations are available depending on circumstances. This service is also called A Celebration of Life, most commonly when combined with the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (or Holy Communion.)

The Holy Eucharist is the principal act of Christian Worship on the Lord's Day (Sunday) and for other major celebrations in the Church. It is the sacrament instituted by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again. In the Holy Eucharist our union with Christ and with one another is strengthened making this sacrament particularly appropriate for a memorial service. It may be appropriate for you or your loved ones to decide not to have Holy Eucharist at a memorial service as well, for either personal or family tradition reasons. The service takes approximately forty-five minutes to an hour, depending on whether or not communion is included. Considering the solemnity of the occasion, the service is never rushed.

The color of the hangings in the chancel and on the altar, as well as the color of the clergy vestments is always white for memorial services, because this is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the Resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

When the casket or urn is brought into the church it is covered by a white cloth called a "pall." The pall helps the congregation focus on the worship of God and the hope of the resurrection by de-emphasizing the relative expense of coffins and showing the equality of all people in Christ. It has a democratizing value, for it prevents both the display of a costly coffin and the discomfiture of a simple one. In death all are equal as we come before God.

Meeting with a member of the clergy as soon as possible to prepare the service and share memories (to help build the sermon) is encouraged. Family members or close friends may offer a brief remembrance about the life of the departed. A clergy person will conclude this part of the service with a sermon placed in the context of celebration, resurrection to eternal life, and faith in God.

It is most appropriate for the body to be present for the liturgy in the tradition of being "buried from the church." There is a brief service of reception as the body arrives at the door, for which it is appropriate for the family to be present. Cremation is also an ancient and appropriate practice which has become more prevalent in Christianity in recent years, so it is also appropriate that the veiled cremains be present near the altar.

Internment (burial) of the remains often takes place immediately following the service. Alternative arrangements may also be made with the clergy.

Service Leaflets

Booklets containing the complete Burial Service are possible. Generally, a bulletin containing the order of service, annotated with page numbers to both the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal, is provided. Full booklets can be created at the family's request only if enough time is available for the church staff to create, print, and staple the booklets. For members of the parish there are no costs associated with bulletins. For non-members there is a suggested donation of \$50 to cover the expense of printing.

Flowers

Flowers are both beautiful and appropriate for the rites of Christian burial. Given our space it is necessary to place a restriction on the number of arrangements possible at the church. Two arrangements may be placed behind the altar on the reredos (often referred to as "altar flowers") and one large arrangement on the chancel rail or at the font are all that can be permitted. The Altar Guild is responsible for obtaining the altar flowers. The cost of altar flowers may vary, but are generally the same as the current rates for any service. Casket Flowers are not permitted during the service. Any additional flowers brought to the church may be placed in the Narthex or the Library. All flowers must be removed after the liturgy by either the family or the funeral director. Families are always encouraged to suggest that loved ones contribute to a charity that would have special meaning or significance to the deceased.

Candles

Candles are symbolic as signs of spiritual joy and of the light of heaven. In addition to the two candles on the altar, the Paschal Candle used during the Easter Season is used in this service. It stands near the casket or urn of the deceased. The Paschal candle represents for us "the light of Christ" and is one of the great symbols of our hope in the Resurrection.

Receptions in the Parish Hall

Rowley Hall or the Hobson Library may be used for a brief reception either before or following the memorial service. Arrangements for food can be made with the church.

Memorial Service Expenses

There are no fees for the use of the church or the services of the organist for members of Christ Episcopal Church, or their families. A gift to the Christ Church Memorial Fund will be gratefully accepted. For non-members of the church, a \$50.00 cleaning fee for the use of the building and a \$100.00 fee for the services of the organist are assessed. There is no fee for clergy services. If you wish to provide an honorarium, it should go directly to the clergy person involved.

Columbarium-Memorial Garden

The Christ Church Columbarium-Memorial Garden, in the courtyard of the campus, is a sacred place for the interment of ashes. The Columbarium is open to Christ Church parishioners, former parishioners and members of their family. Ashes are placed in ground niches or scattered in the ground. The garden is beautifully planted and tended year round.

Columbarium-Memorial Garden Expenses

Reservation of a niche:

Includes the opening and closing for one interment, stone, inscription, and maintenance.

Members of the Church, or their families..... \$800.00

Non-Members \$1400.00

Please note that while non-members are permitted burial in the Columbarium, it is required that those individuals have sufficient and valid ties to the parish.

Second interment (with inscription) \$600.00

Ground Interment

Scattering of ashes among the flowers in the garden

Interment:..... \$400.00

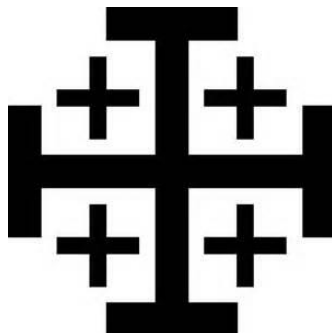
Memorial Plaques

Stones placed in memory of a loved one, without interment

With one name \$600.00

With two names..... \$800.00

If both dates are not inscribed at the same time \$1000.00



Music

There is a wealth of beautiful and appropriate sacred music that is suitable for use in a Memorial Service.

The Organist and Choirmaster is normally designated the organist at all memorial services, and in the occasion of he or she being unable to be present, a person whom he or she appoints. All decisions regarding music are made by the officiating clergy and Organist and Choirmaster in consultation with the family.

Music for the service should be appropriate for use in the church. Secular music, while sometimes comforting in our times of loss, is generally considered inappropriate for the solemnity of the occasion. All music should be a live offering to God, and pre-recorded music is not used.

Should the family wish a soloist to sing, the organist has a list of persons who can perform this function. Sung music is also chosen in consultation with the Organist and Choirmaster.

Instrumental music other than organ is also a possibility, and such decisions should be made in consultation with the clergy and Organist and Choirmaster.

Please be aware that outside soloists or musicians may require a fee. Payment or negotiation of any fees relating to outside soloists or musicians is the responsibility of the family.

It is customary for celebratory organ voluntaries to be played before and after the liturgy. This music is usually selected by the organist. Requests for specific music selections should be made through the Organist and Choirmaster.

Suggested Hymns

General Hymns

	<u>Hymn #</u>
A Mighty Fortress is our God	688
Eternal father, strong to Save	608
For all the Saints, who from their labors rest	287
God of grace and God of glory	594
O God our help in ages past	680
Ye holy angels bright	625
The King of Love my shepherd is (Psalm 23)	645
Dear Lord and Father of mankind	652
Love divine, all loves excelling	657
Amazing grace	671
God be in my head	694
Take my life and let it be consecrated	707
Joyful, joyful we adore thee	376
Lift high the cross	473
Come, labor on	541
Jerusalem, my happy home	620
O Worship the King, All Glorious Above	388
Praise to the Lord	390
Praise my soul the King of Heaven	410
Come ye faithful, raise the strain	199
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er	208
Jesus Christ is Risen Today	207
Let Saints on Earth	526
Jesus Shall Reign	544
Remember your Servants	560

The Holy Eucharist

I come with joy to meet my Lord	304
My God, thy table now is spread	321
Let all mortal flesh keep silence	324
I am the bread of Life	335
And now, O Father, mindful of the love	337
Savior, again to thy dear name we raise	345

Hymn words and tunes may found at
www.cyberhymnal.org

Due to the sacred nature of the occasion, pre-recorded music is never appropriate

Readings Appointed for Use at Burial

Old Testament Lessons

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured 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 for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject for ever. 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

But 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

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 for ever! 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.

New Testament Lessons

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

For 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

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

So 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

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

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 worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, 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

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; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

Gospel Lessons

John 5:24-27

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

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. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

John 11:21-27

Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother 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

‘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.

Psalms

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

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 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? When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell. Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid; And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him. One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; To behold the fair beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock. Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me. Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the LORD. Harken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, LORD, will I seek. Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure. You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation. Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will sustain me. Show me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies. Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice. What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! O tarry and await the LORD'S pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the LORD.

Psalm 42 *Quemadmodum*

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?" I pour out my soul when I think on these things: how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God, With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy-day. Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 46 *Deus noster refugium*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; God shall help her at the break of day. The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, what awesome things he has done on earth. It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 90 *Domine, refugium*

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, O 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. For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation. Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone. Who regards the power of your wrath? who rightly fears your indignation? So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Psalm 106 *Confitemini Domino*

Hallelujah! Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever. Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD or show forth all his praise? Happy are those who act with justice and always do what is right! Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, and visit me with your saving help; That I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people, that I may glory with your inheritance.

Psalm 116 *Dilexi, quoniam*

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him. 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. I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living. I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low." In my distress I said,

"No one can be trusted." How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things he has done for me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his servants. O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds. I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the Name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*

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 130 *De profundis*

Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. 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 watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy; With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Psalm 139 *Domine, probasti*

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 then 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.

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed himself to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on
are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors.

