

## PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL MEMORIAL

Often at the time of death, family members wish there had been information shared by their loved ones. This form can be filled out and placed in your Bible, in a file at home or given to one of the pastors to be placed in a confidential file. You may want to consider completing this information and sharing it as a gift to your family members.

*I share these preferences in order to help my family during their time of grief and celebration of my life. Therefore, I commend the following, but understand that circumstance may arise that require adjustments in order to fit my family's needs.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

### Family member contact info:

Phone numbers:

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral home preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

### My wishes are the following

\_\_\_\_\_ Cremation

\_\_\_\_\_ Earth Burial

I would like a visitation

\_\_\_\_\_ Holy Cross

\_\_\_\_\_ Funeral Home

If a visitation is held, I would like

\_\_\_\_\_ Open casket

\_\_\_\_\_ Closed casket

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial (no casket present)

I would like a worship service at:

\_\_\_\_\_ Holy Cross

\_\_\_\_\_ Funeral Home

\_\_\_\_\_ Chapel at cemetery

I would like a funeral lunch at

\_\_\_\_\_ Holy Cross

\_\_\_\_\_ Restaurant

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

I would like to invite memorials for the following: (i.e. Holy Cross, Hospice, Luther Manor)

\_\_\_\_\_

Hymns/Solos I would like to be included in the service:

1.

2.

3.

Scriptures I would like to be included in the service:

1.

2.

3.

Family/Pastor's Choice may choose hymns/scriptures

Make sure your family is aware of the following:

1. Safety deposit box location and key location
2. Passwords for computers
3. Important paper location in the home: (i.e. will, APOA)
4. List of assets and location.

Consider sharing a copy of this form with the one designated to handle your arrangements. A more complete listing of scripture and hymns is available on our website or in the church office.

## HYMNS FOR FUNERALS

### WORD OF GOD

- 504 A Mighty Fortress is Our God
- 515 Break Now the Bread of Life

### GATHERING

- 521 O Day of Rest and Gladness
- 533 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
- 534 Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

### SENDING

- 543 Go My Children, with My Blessing

### GRACE, FAITH

- 597 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

### CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS

- 608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

### HEALING

- 612 Healer of Our Every Ill
- 613 Thy Holy wings

### HOPE, ASSURANCE

- 619 I Know That My Redeemer Lives!
- 623 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
- 627 O Day Full of Grace
- 628 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
- 629 Abide with Me
- 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- 635 We Walk by Faith
- 638 Blessed Assurance

### COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

- 656 Bless Be the Tie That Binds

### WITNESS

- 660 Lift High the Cross
- 661 I Love to Tell the Story
- 666 What Wondrous Love Is This
- 697 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

### JUSTICE AND PEACE

- 707 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
- 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
- 714 O God of Mercy, God of Light
- 720 We Are Called
- 728 Blest Are They
- 732 Borne Cry

## CREATION

- 733 Great is Thy Faithfulness
- 742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

### TRUST, GUIDANCE

- 755 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
- 756 Eternal Father, Strong to Save
- 759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee
- 764 Have No Fear, Little Flock
- 765 Lord of All Hopefulness
- 767 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
- 768 Lead Me, Guide Me
- 770 Give Me Jesus
- 773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- 774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
- 775 Jesus, Priceless Treasure
- 778 The Lord's My Shepherd
- 779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
- 780 Shepherd Me, O God (need soloist with congr)
- 781 Children of the Heavenly Father
- 785 When Peace like a River
- 787 On Eagles' Wings
- 789 Savior, like a shepherd Lead Us

### COMMITMENT, DISCIPLESHIP

- 803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- 810 O Jesus, I have Promised
- 817 You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

### PRAISE, THANKSGIVING

- 829 O Savior, Precious Savior
- 824 This Is my Father's World
- 834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
- 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
- 838 Beautiful Savior
- 840 Now Thank We all Our God
- 848 Give to Our God Immortal Praise!
- 850 When in Our Music God Is Glorified
- 853 When Morning Gilds the Skies
- 856 How Great Thou Art
- 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- 863 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art
- 879 For the Beauty of the Earth
- 881 Let All Things Now Living
- 886 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

## SELECTION OF SCRIPTURES FOR A FUNERAL

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 – For everything there is a season...

Isaiah 25:6-9 This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice

Isaiah 43:1-3a, 4a,,5a Fear not, I have called you by name, you are mine

Isaiah 41:10<sup>10</sup> do not fear, for I am with you,

Isaiah 61:1-3 sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted,

Psalms 23 – the Lord is my shepherd

Psalms 42:1-7 – As a deer longs for flowing streams

Psalms 46:1-7 – God is our refuge and strength

Psalms 121 – I lift up my eyes to the hills....

Psalms 130 – Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Matthew 5: 1-12 – The Beatitudes

Matthew 6:19-23 store up for yourselves treasures in heaven

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me all you that are weary

Matthew 19:14 Let the little children come

John 3:14-17 For God so loved the world

John 6:37-40 – I will raise them up on the last day

John 10:11-18 ‘I am the good shepherd.

John 10:27-30<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice.

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

John 12:23-26 Unless a Grain of Wheat falls into the earth

John 14:1-6 – In my Father’s house there are many rooms

Romans 5:1-11 boast in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope....

Romans 8:14-23 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed.

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 What then shall we say to this?

Romans 14:7-9 If we live, we live to the Lord

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Death has been swallowed up in victory

Philippians 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven

Ephesians 3:14-21 To know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge

Colossians 3:1-4 Your life is hidden with Christ in God

Colossians 3:12-17<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts

1 Peter 1:3-9 – an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading...

2 Timothy 4:6-8<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

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

Revelation 21:1-4, 7 I saw a new heaven and a new earth

## SCRIPTURES FOR A FUNERAL

### **Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 – *For everything there is a season...***

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

<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die;

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

<sup>3</sup>a time to kill, and a time to heal;

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

<sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

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

<sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and a time to lose;

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

<sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to sew;

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

<sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace

### **Isaiah 25:6-9 *This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice***

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,

the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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 43:1-3a, 4a,,5a *Fear not, I have called you by name, you are mine***

But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you,

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;

### **Isaiah 41:10 <sup>10</sup>*do not fear, for I am with you,***

<sup>10</sup>do not fear, for I am with you,

do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,

I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

***Isaiah 61:1-3 sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,***

<sup>61</sup>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;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>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.

***Psalms 23 – the Lord is my shepherd***

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

***Psalms 42:1-7 – As a deer longs for flowing streams***

<sup>1</sup>As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When shall I come and behold the face of God?

<sup>3</sup>My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'

<sup>4</sup>These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God,  
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

<sup>5</sup>Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help <sup>6</sup>and my God.

My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you  
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

<sup>7</sup>Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;  
all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

***Psalm 46:1-7 – God is our refuge and strength***

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
<sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
<sup>6</sup>The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

***Psalm 121 – I lift up my eyes to the hills....***

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?  
<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.  
<sup>4</sup>He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
<sup>5</sup>The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.  
<sup>6</sup>The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and for evermore

***Psalm 130 – Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.***

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.  
<sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!  
<sup>3</sup>If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  
<sup>4</sup>But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.  
<sup>5</sup>I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;  
<sup>6</sup>my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,  
<sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.  
<sup>8</sup>It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

***Matthew 5: 1 12 – The Beatitudes***

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>4</sup> ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup> ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
<sup>6</sup> ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup> ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
<sup>8</sup> ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup> ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
<sup>10</sup> ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> ‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you

***Matthew 6:19-23 store up for yourselves treasures in heaven***

<sup>19</sup> ‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>22</sup> ‘The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; <sup>23</sup>but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

***Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me all you that are weary***

<sup>28</sup> ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

***Matthew 19:14 Let the little children come***

<sup>14</sup>but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’

***John 3:14-17 For God so loved the world***

<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

***John 6::37-40 – I will raise them up on the last day***

<sup>37</sup>Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup>for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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 10:11-18 ‘I am the good shepherd.***

<sup>11</sup> ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

***John 10:27-30<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice.***

<sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.’

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

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

***John 12:23-26 Unless a Grain of Wheat falls into the earth***

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

**John 14:1-6 – In my Father’s house there are many rooms**

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

**Romans 5:1-11 boast in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope....**

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

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

Romans 8:14-23

**Romans 8:14-23 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed.**

<sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>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!’ <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

**Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 What then shall we say to this?**

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>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? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>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 LordRomans 14:7-9 If we live, we live to the Lord

***1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Death has been swallowed up in victory***

<sup>51</sup>Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>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.

<sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>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.’

<sup>55</sup>‘Where, O death, is your victory?’

Where, O death, is your sting?’

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Philippians 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven***

<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation so 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.

***Ephesians 3:14-21 To know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge***

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

***Colossians 3:1-4 Your life is hidden with Christ in God***

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

***Colossians 3:12-17 <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts***

<sup>12</sup>As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

***1 Peter 1:3-9 – an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading...***

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

***2 Timothy 4:6-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.***

<sup>6</sup>As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

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

<sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup>singing,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honour

and power and might

be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ <sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup> 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 21:1-4, 7 I saw a new heaven and a new earth***

Then 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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>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;

<sup>4</sup>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.’ <sup>7</sup>Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.