



# Resource Guide for Planning Your Funeral

St. Michael's Episcopal Church is honored to offer the hospitality of our space to you as you consider details of your funeral service. By giving thought to the details and sharing your notes with your family and the clergy, you will help us be about the work of celebrating your life and commending you to God with assurance that we honor you in the effort. Your planning will be a rich gift to those whom you love as they plan that service. The clergy also consider it a privilege to assist you in any way you find helpful.

As Christians, we proclaim that in death, life is changed, not ended, and this burial service gathers up that belief with much grace. As people of faith, we do not deny death; rather, we see death as an integral part of life. The following guidelines are intended to assist you in this important work.

## **General Guidelines**

Funeral services have several alternative names (e.g., the Burial Rite, a memorial service, a celebration of life, a requiem mass, etc.), but they all attend to the liturgical work of marking the occasion when one has died. It is important work, and at St. Michael's the funeral service is based on the order of service provided in the Book of Common Prayer. The officiating priest will help your family to plan a service that proclaims our faith in resurrection; reflect and celebrate the life of the person who has died; and offer comfort and hope to all who mourn.

## **Scheduling the Service**

We will do everything we can to make the sanctuary available at the best time for your family and friends to gather for a service, but because we have many events scheduled, we may not be able to offer their first choice. It's important that the family clears the day and time with the St. Michael's clergy first before announcing the service publicly.

## **Participating Clergy and Musicians**

Normally, a priest from St. Michael's is the officiating priest at the service. We are happy to welcome assisting clergy from outside, but it is appropriate for the Rector to extend any invitations to other clergy. The musician for the service is usually the church's Director of Music. We are also happy to welcome assisting musicians from outside but ask that you consult first with the Director of Music.

## **Speakers**

We generally encourage those offering remembrances to do so at the reception. If you feel strongly about someone speaking during the service, we are happy to discuss that possibility.

## **Readers and Leader of the Prayers**

Usually, laypersons rather than clergy read the lessons. Members of the family or friends might be invited to serve as readers. One or two readers will be needed, depending on how many readings you choose. If the liturgy is a Eucharist, The Gospel is read by a deacon or priest. A member of the family or a friend might be invited to lead the prayers.

## **Will the service include a Eucharist?**

You will want to consider whether the service will include a Eucharist (a Communion service) as part of the Burial Office (the service of readings and prayer). We encourage you to have Eucharist, even if your family and friends may not practice such faith traditions. The clergy will take great care to extend a welcome to all present as part of the radical hospitality we strive to practice here. There is also a profound mystery built into the burial rite wherein we state that, in the mystical ways of God, we share the eucharistic feast with those who have gone before, including the one whose life we celebrate on that particular day.

## **Will the body of the deceased be present?**

If there is a cremation, will the ashes be present?

Our faith is an incarnational (embodied) faith. We recommend, if it is possible, that either the body or the ashes be present at the service. We honor the body (or the ashes which represent it) as the vessel that contained the gift of the person we love. The presence of that reminder as we proclaim, sing, and pray convinces us anew that the Christian hope of risen life in Christ is now a reality for our loved one.

If the body or ashes will be present, we recommend doing a formal reception of the body or ashes at the very beginning of the liturgy.

## **Funeral Instructions**

The next few pages provide an outline that we hope will help you begin to think about your service. As questions arise, we encourage you to speak with family members if you find that helpful. Please know the clergy stand ready to assist also.

*The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.*

*The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

*This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.*

# FUNERAL & BURIAL INSTRUCTIONS

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I

\_\_\_\_\_

on this day,

\_\_\_\_\_ ,

do solemnly make these instructions and desires known concerning my death and burial.

*Note: Please file this information where it will be found easily upon your death. It is suggested that you file a copy of your instructions with St. Michaels Episcopal Church and/or your attorney and notify your heirs that this form exists for their information.*

## Personal and Family Information

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Place of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Date /Place of Confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date /Place of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Date /Place of Confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Full Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Living ? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Mother's Full Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Living ? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Names and contact information of living siblings:**

**Names and contact information of persons to notify upon my death:**

Occupation of Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last will executed \_\_\_\_\_

Location of will \_\_\_\_\_

Representative's name and address \_\_\_\_\_

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For additional information on my assets please refer to \_\_\_\_\_

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located: \_\_\_\_\_

**Disposition of my body:**

I wish to donate my body for medical use: Yes No

I wish to donate the following organs for medical use: \_\_\_\_\_

My preference is \_\_\_\_ burial \_\_\_\_ cremation \_\_\_\_ body present at funeral, cremation following.

If cremation, my ashes are to be disposed of as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

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If burial, my burial plot is located at: \_\_\_\_\_

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If no burial plot is owned, I wish to be buried in the following cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

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I am attaching a copy of my preferred Obituary: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

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Signed | Date

*St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 4499 Sharp Rd, Mandeville, LA 70471 keeps my/our burial instructions on file.*

## BURIAL LITURGY INSTRUCTIONS

The tradition of the Church, which Episcopalians have received, is that baptized Christians are normally buried from the church directly following the service. The Prayer Book indicates, and the burial liturgy assumes, that the body is to be present (although the Burial Office or a Burial Rite with Holy Eucharist may take place without the body). When the body or cremated remains are present, the coffin is closed and the coffin or urn is always covered by a pall, which the church will provide.

**1) I request that my service be conducted at the following church** (*name, city, and state of church*):

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The rector or clergy of said congregation shall be in charge of the service.

**2) The Burial of the Dead** (see pages 469-505 in *The Book of Common Prayer*) is a series of Psalms, lessons, and prayers and is often known simply as the Burial Office. The Rite I Liturgy (pages 469-489) uses the more traditional, Elizabethan language ("whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.") The Rite II Liturgy (pages 490-505) uses more contemporary language used today.

**I request to use (check one):**

- Burial of the Dead, Rite I
- Burial of the Dead, Rite II

It is also most appropriate at the death of a Christian to celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

**I request (check one):**

- Burial Office (*without* Holy Eucharist)
- Burial Rite *with* Holy Eucharist

### Scripture Readings

The Book of Common Prayer recommends but does not require the following readings to be used at a Burial liturgy. If there are other readings or portions of the suggested readings that you would prefer, please indicate so. See Appendix A for the readings.

#### OLD TESTAMENT

- Isaiah 25:6-9 (*He will swallow up death forever*)
- Isaiah 61:1-3 (*To comfort all that mourn*)

- Lamentations 3: 22-26, 31-33 (*The Lord is good to those who wait for him*)
- Daniel 12:1-3 (*Those who sleep in the dust shall awake*)
- Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15 (*God did not make death*)
- Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-5, 9 (*The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God*)  Job
- 14: 7-9 (10-12) (*Mortals die, and are laid low*)
- Job 19: 21-27a (*I know that my Redeemer lives*)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## PSALM

- 23 (*The Lord is my Shepherd*)
- 27 (*The Lord is my light and my salvation*)
- 42 (*Like at the heart desireth the water brooks*)
- 46 (*God is our hope and strength*)
- 90 (*Lord, Thou hast been our refuge*)
- 106 (*O, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious*)
- 116 (*I love the Lord, because he has heard*)
- 118 (*The Lord is my strength and my song*)
- 121 (*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills*)
- 130 (*Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord*)
- 139 (*O Lord, Thou hast searched me out, and known me*)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW TESTAMENT

- Romans 6:3-9 (10-11) (*So we too might walk in newness of life*)
- Romans 8:14-19 (34-35, 37-39) (*All led by the Spirit of God are children of God*)
- Romans 14:7-9 (*And if we die, we die to the Lord*)
- 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26 (*The last enemy...is death*)
- 1 Corinthians 15: 51-58 (*Death has been swallowed up in victory*)
- 2 Corinthians 4:16—5:9 (*Things that are unseen are eternal*)
- 1 Peter 1:3-9 (*He has given us a new birth into a living hope*)
- 1 John 3:1-2 (*We shall be like him*)
- Revelation 7:9-17 (*God will wipe away every tear*)
- Revelation 21:2-7 (*Behold, I make all things new*)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## GOSPEL

- Matthew 11: 25-30 (*Come to me, all you that are weary*)
- Luke 24: 13-16 (17-35) (*The road to Emmaus*)
- John 5: 24-27 (*He who believes has everlasting life*)
- John 6: 37-40 (*All that the Father gives me will come to me*)
- John 10: 11-16 (*I am the Good Shepherd*)
- John 11: 21-27 (*I am the resurrection and the life*)
- John 14: 1-6 (*In my Father's house are many rooms*)
- John 20: 11-18 (*Mary encounters the risen Christ*)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and contact information of readers (list up to three):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Music For Burial Service

The church has an abundance of beautiful, appropriate and approved sacred music suitable for use in the context of a funeral. See Appendix B for a listing of recommended hymns.

Hymns are appropriate at funeral services because they bring the community together in the participation of grief and praise. Hymn selection, however, is vital in this context. Funerals are not necessarily the appropriate time to sing every hymn a person has enjoyed over his or her lifetime. Suitable times in the liturgy for hymns are immediately after the Opening Anthem, before the Gospel reading, as the altar is prepared for Holy Eucharist (an Offertory Hymn) during Communion, and just before the Commendation.

Another option is to have a soloist or a performance group sing or perform sacred music at any (or all) of these places in the liturgy.

Please keep in mind that the Rector of the Parish approves all music, and that secular music will not be used.

I would like for the following hymns to be sung by the congregation at my burial service:

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I would like for the following hymns/sacred music to be performed by a soloist (or other performance group) at my burial service:

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Other instructions on music:

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## Appendix A—Suggested Funeral Readings

### Old Testament Readings or First Lesson

#### Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain, the Lord of heavenly forces will prepare for all peoples a rich feast, a feast of choice wines, of select foods rich in flavor, of choice wines well refined. He will swallow up on this mountain the veil that is veiling all peoples, the shroud enshrouding all nations. He will swallow up death forever. The Lord God will wipe tears from every face; he will remove his people's disgrace from off the whole earth, for the Lord has spoken. They will say on that day, "Look! This is our God, for whom we have waited—and he has saved us! This is the Lord, for whom we have waited; let's be glad and rejoice in his salvation!"

#### Isaiah 61:1-3

The Lord God's spirit is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim release for captives, and liberation for prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and a day of vindication for our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for Zion's mourners, to give them a crown in place of ashes, oil of joy in place of mourning, a mantle of praise in place of discouragement. They will be called Oaks of Righteousness, planted by the Lord to glorify himself.

#### Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through! They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness. I think: The Lord is my portion! Therefore, I'll wait for him. The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the person who seeks him. It's good to wait in silence for the Lord's deliverance. ... My Lord definitely won't reject forever. Although he has caused grief, he will show compassion in measure with his covenant love. He definitely doesn't enjoy affliction, making humans suffer.

#### Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

But the souls of the righteous are in God's hand, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was considered 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 the truth, and the faithful will live with him in love because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his chosen ones.

#### Job 19:21-27a

Have mercy on me, my friends, have mercy on me, for God's hand has struck me. Why do you pursue me like God does, never satisfied with my flesh? Oh, that my words were written down, inscribed on a scroll with an iron instrument and lead, forever engraved on stone. But I know that my redeemer is alive and afterward he'll rise upon the dust. After my skin has been torn apart this way—then from my flesh I'll see God, whom I'll see myself—my eyes see, and not a stranger's.

## **Psalms**

### ***Psalm 42:1-7***

- 1 As the deer longs for the waterbrooks, \*  
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; \*  
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, \*  
while all day long they say to me,  
"Where now is your God?"
- 4 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,
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, \*  
among those who keep holyday.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? \*  
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 Put your trust in God; \*  
for I will yet give thanks to him,  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

### ***Psalm 46:1-2***

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

- 6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \*  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, \*  
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 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.
- 11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
- 12 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

***Psalm 90:1-12***

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
from age to age you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
"Go back, O child of earth."
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday \*  
and like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; \*

- we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; \*  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- 10 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.
- 11 Who regards the power of your wrath? \*  
who rightly fears your indignation?
- 12 So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

***Psalm 121***

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

from this time forth for evermore

***Psalm 130:1-7***

- 1 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.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

***Psalm 139:1-11***

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my restingplaces \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

## **New Testament Readings or Second Lesson**

### **Romans 6:3-11**

Or don't you know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life. 5 If we were united together in a death like his, we will also be united together in a resurrection like his. 6 This is what we know: the person that we used to be was crucified with him in order to get rid of the corpse that had been controlled by sin. That way we wouldn't be slaves to sin anymore, 7 because a person who has died has been freed from sin's power. 8 But if we died with Christ, we have faith that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ has been raised from the dead and he will never die again. Death no longer has power over him. 10 He died to sin once and for all with his death, but he lives for God with his life. 11 In the same way, you also should consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

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

All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons and daughters. You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children. But if we are children, we are also heirs. We are God's heirs and fellow heirs with Christ, if we really suffer with him so that we can also be glorified with him.

I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons



and daughters.

Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

### **Romans: 14:7-9**

We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-26**

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead. He's the first crop of the harvest of those who have died. Since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came through one too. In the same way that everyone dies in Adam, so also everyone will be given life in Christ. Each event will happen in the right order: Christ, the first crop of the harvest, then those who belong to Christ at his coming, and then the end, when Christ hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he brings every form of rule, every authority, and every power to an end.

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-58**

Listen, I'm telling you a secret: All of us won't die, but we will all be changed— in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the final trumpet. The trumpet will blast, and the dead will be raised with bodies that won't decay, and we will be changed. It's necessary for this rotting body to be clothed with what can't decay, and for the body that is dying to be clothed in what can't die. And when the rotting body has been clothed in what can't decay, and the dying body has been clothed in what can't die, then this statement in scripture will happen:

*Death has been swallowed up by a victory.*

*Where is your victory, Death?*

*Where is your sting, Death?*

(Death's sting is sin, and the power of sin is the Law.) Thanks be to God, who gives us this victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! As a result of all this, my loved brothers and sisters, you must stand firm, unshakable, excelling in the work of the Lord as always, because you know that your labor isn't going to be for nothing in the Lord.

### **2 Corinthians 4:16–5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)**

So we aren't depressed. But even if our bodies are breaking down on the outside, the person that we are on the inside is being renewed every day. Our temporary minor problems are producing an

eternal stockpile of glory for us that is beyond all comparison. We don't focus on the things that can be seen but on the things that can't be seen. The things that can be seen don't last, but the things that can't be seen are eternal.

We know that if the tent that we live in on earth is torn down, we have a building from God. It's a house that isn't handmade, which is eternal and located in heaven. We groan while we live in this residence. We really want to dress ourselves with our building from heaven— since we assume that when we take off this tent, we won't find out that we are naked. Yes, while we are in this tent we groan, because we are weighed down. We want to be dressed not undressed, so that what is dying can be swallowed up by life. Now the one who prepared us for this very thing is God, and God gave us the Spirit as a down payment for our home.

So we are always confident, because we know that while we are living in the body, we are away from our home with the Lord. We live by faith and not by sight. We are confident, and we would prefer to leave the body and to be at home with the Lord. So our goal is to be acceptable to him, whether we are at home or away from home.

### **1 Peter 1:3-9 (He has given us a new birth into a living hope)**

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you. Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God's power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time.

You now rejoice in this hope, even if it's necessary for you to be distressed for a short time by various trials. This is necessary so that your faith may be found genuine. (Your faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire.) Your genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you've never seen him, you love him. Even though you don't see him now, you trust him and so rejoice with a glorious joy that is too much for words. You are receiving the goal of your faith: your salvation.

### **1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)**

See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are! Because the world didn't recognize him, it doesn't recognize us.

Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we'll see him as he is.

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

After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice:

“Victory belongs to our God  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.”

All the angels stood in a circle around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

“Amen! Blessing and glory  
and wisdom and thanksgiving

and honor and power and might  
be to our God forever and always. Amen.”

Then one of the elders said to me, “Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?”

I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

Then he said to me, “These people have come out of great hardship. They have washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb’s blood. This is the reason they are before God’s throne. They worship him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. They won’t hunger or thirst anymore. No sun or scorching heat will beat down on them, because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

**Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)**

I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “Look! God’s dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look! I’m making all things new.” He also said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring. Those who emerge victorious will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my sons and daughters.

□ **Matthew 11: 25-30 (Come to me, all you that are weary)**

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you’ve hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have shown them to babies. Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness.

“My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.”

□ **Luke 24: 13-16 (17-35) (The road to Emmaus)**

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

(He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?”

He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.”

Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.)

**John 5: 24-27 (*He who believes has everlasting life*)**

“I assure you that whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and won’t come under judgment but has passed from death into life.

“I assure you that the time is coming—and is here!—when the dead will hear the voice of God’s Son, and those who hear it will live. Just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. He gives the Son authority to judge, because he is the Son of Man.

**John 6: 37-40 (*All that the Father gives me will come to me*)**

Everyone whom the Father gives to me will come to me, and I won’t send away anyone who comes to me. I have come down from heaven not to do my will, but the will of him who sent me. This is the will of the one who sent me, that I won’t lose anything he has given me, but I will raise it up at the last day. This is my Father’s will: that all who see the Son and believe in him will have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

**John 10: 11-16 (*I am the Good Shepherd*)**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That’s because he isn’t the shepherd; the sheep aren’t really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. He’s only a hired hand and the sheep don’t matter to him.

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that don’t belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.

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

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you.”

Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha replied, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She replied, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God’s Son, the one who is coming into the world.”

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

“Don’t be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. My Father’s house has room to spare. If that weren’t the case, would I have told you that I’m going to prepare a place for you? When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. You know the way to the place I’m going.”

Thomas asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**John 20: 11-18 (*Mary encounters the risen Christ*)**

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

She replied, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve put him.” As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabbouni” (which means *Teacher*).

Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold on to me, for I haven’t yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers

and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

## Appendix B—Recommended Hymns

### 1982 Hymnal

- 151 From deepest woe I cry to thee (3)
- 194/195 Jesus lives! The terrors now(4)
- 208 Alleluia! The strife is o'er the battle done (5)
- 287 For all the saints, who from their labors rest (8)
- 326 From glory to glory advancing(2)
- 338 Wherefore, O father, we thy humble servants (2)
- 354 Into paradise may the angels lead you(2)
- 355 Give rest, O christ, to yourservant(s) (1)
- 356 May choirs of angels lead you to Paradise on high(3)
- 357 Jesus, Son of Mary (4)
- 358 Christ the Victorious, give to your servants (4)
- 429 I'll praise my Maker while I've breath (4)
- 444 Blessed be the God of Israel (3)
- 447 The Christ who died but rose again (4)
- 455/456 O Love of God, how strong and true (4)
- 487 Come, my Way, my truth, my Life (3)
- 499 Lord god, you now have set your servant free (1)
- 517 How lovely is thy dwelling-place (4)
- 560 Remember your servants, Lord (9)
- 620 Jerusalem, my happy home (5)
- 621/622 Light's abode, celestial Salem (5)
- 623 O what their joy and their glory must be (5)
- 625 Ye holy angels bright (4)
- 635 If thou but trust in God to guide thee (2)
- 636/637 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord (5)
- 645-646, 658 The King of love my shepherd is (6) As longs the deer for cooling streams (4)
- 663 The Lord my God my shepherd is (6)

664 My shepherd will supply my need (3)  
665 All my hope on god is founded (5)  
666 Out of the depths I call (4)  
668 I to the hills will lift mine eyes (4)  
680 O God, our help in ages past (6)  
687/688 A mighty fortress is our God (4)  
690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (3)  
692 I heard the voice of Jesus say (3)

### **Extra Suggestions**

8 Morning has broken (3)  
24 The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended (4)  
209 We Walk by faith (4)  
335 I am the Bread of Life (5)  
372 Praise to the living God (4)  
376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee (3)  
377 All people that on Earth do dwell (5)  
380 From all that dwell below the skies (3)  
383 Fairest Lord Jesus (3)  
388 O worship the King (5)  
390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (4)  
392 Come, we that love the Lord (4)  
397 Now thank we all our God (3)  
400 All creatures of our God and King (7)  
408 Sing praise to God (3)  
410 Praise my soul, the King of Heaven (4)  
414 God, my King, thy might confessing (5)  
423 Immortal, invisible, God only wise (4)  
427 When morning gilds the skies (5)  
439 What wondrous love is this? (3)



457 Thou Art the way, the truth, the life (4)  
467 Sing, my soul, His wondrous love (4) 4  
70 There's a wideness in God's mercy (3)  
482 Lord of all hopefulness (4)  
493 O for a thousand tongues to sing (5)  
494 Crown Him with many crowns (5)  
508 Breathe on me breath of God  
541 Come, labor on (5)  
545 Lo! What a cloud of witnesses (5)  
552 Fight the good fight (4)  
656 Blest are the pure in heart (4)  
657 Love divine, all loves excelling (3)  
662 Abide with me (4)  
665 All my hope on God is founded (5)  
667 Sometimes a light surprises (4)  
671 Amazing grace! (5)  
677 God moves in a mysterious way (5) 6  
80 O God, our help in ages past (5)  
691 My faith looks up to thee (3)  
699 Jesus, lover of my soul (3)  
704 O thou who camest from above (4)  
708 Savior, like a shepherd lead us (2)  
709 O God of Bethel (5)

Also see Easter selection:

174 At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
178 Alleluia, alleluia! Gave thanks to the risen Lord  
180 He is risen, he is risen!  
181 Awake and sing the song  
182 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing  
183 Christians, to the Paschal victim

184 Christ the Lord is risen again!

185 Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands --- also 186

188 Love's redeeming work is done (1 Cor 15) – also 189

191 Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts and voices heavenward raise (1 Cor 15)

199 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain – also 200

204 Now the green blade riseth from the burial grain

205 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

207 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

212 Awake, arise, lift up your voice