

# Memorial Services

A Guide for Families



This guide is to assist families in planning a memorial service at MDPC that recognizes the loss of a loved one, and also celebrates his or her life. The service, in expressing the faith of the church, will be an occasion of Christian worship, reverence, and remembrance.

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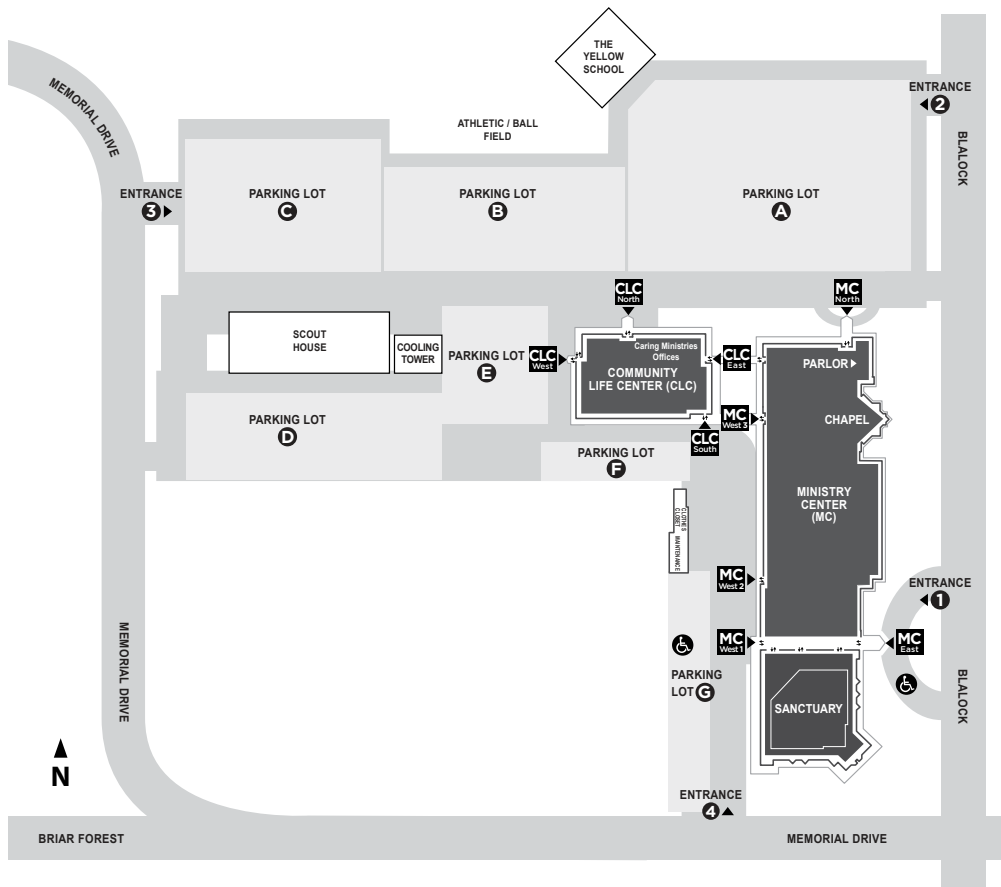
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## Directions

### From Interstate 10 (Katy Freeway):

Take the Echo Lane/Blalock exit. Go south on Echo Lane until it ends at Taylorcrest and turn right. Take the first left onto Blalock and continue past two stop signs. Turn right into the church parking lot at Entrance 2. If you are traveling to the Sanctuary, park in Lot A (if this lot is full, additional parking may be found in Lots B-E, directly West of Lot A). Lot A is the main parking area.

### From Westheimer:

Go north from Westheimer on Fondren. The road becomes S. Piney Point and ends at Memorial Drive. Cross over Memorial Drive and continue past the church to Entrance 2.

## General Information

### Service Venue Options

The Sanctuary seats up to 1,200 people. It works equally well for 350 or more. The Chapel comfortably seats up to 240 people.

### Arrival and Parking

Guest parking is in all lettered Parking Lots (A-G). For guests, Parking Lot A will be the largest and most convenient. Signs directing guests to parking and to the service will be set up throughout the church campus.

Family and special speakers should arrive at least 45 minutes before the service is scheduled to begin.

- Sanctuary service: Parking for the family will be reserved in the half-circle off Blalock Road (Entrance 1). Family members, speakers, and guests to be seated with the family should go directly to the Sanctuary Bride's Room.
- Chapel service: Family and guests should use Parking Lot A near Blalock. Family members, speakers, and guests to be seated with the family should go directly to the Parlor upon arrival.

### Guest Books, Flowers, and Mementos

MDPC does not provide guest books. Guest books can be purchased at your local funeral home or book store.

MDPC does not provide flowers, but can assist by setting up flowers you provide or receive, as well as personal photos or mementos. Some guidelines:

- Florists must indicate on the delivery paperwork that the flowers were purchased by the family and are intended for the "memorial service."
- Delivery should occur the day *of* the service, not the day before, and must be delivered at least two hours before the service starts.
- Delivery persons should check in at MDPC's Front Office. Delivery vans can park in half-circle drive accessed by Entrance 1 from Blalock Road.
- The family may place a maximum of two floral arrangements inside the Sanctuary or Chapel. Floral arrangements provided by persons other than the family will be placed outside the entrance of the Sanctuary or Parlor.

For a memorial service that is followed by an on-site reception, the ushers will carry floral arrangements from the service location to the reception (if necessary). After the reception concludes, facilities staff will dispose of any remaining floral arrangements, unless the family has made other plans.

## Arranging for a Pastor

Memorial services are conducted by one of our pastoral staff. The Memorial Ministries Coordinator will help schedule a pastor and musicians.

## Ushers

MDPC provides volunteer ushers. Ushers will reserve pews for the family; greet and seat arriving guests; set out and monitor the guest book; provide guests with copies of the memorial service bulletin; and bring floral arrangements and the guest book to the reception (if the reception is held at MDPC).

## Memorial Reception

MDPC offers space for a reception following the memorial service.

As a gift to MDPC Members, complimentary punch and cookies for up to 30 people will be provided, along with coffee, iced tea, and water. The family may provide their guests with more substantial refreshments. Catering options are listed below.

For **Non-members**, the church can assist with planning a reception to follow the memorial service. Several catering options are available:

1. MDPC Food Service Ministries and Chef offer a catering menu for the memorial service reception.
2. If your friends or family have volunteered to bring food for the reception, they must contact the Memorial Ministries Coordinator (contact information on first page) for guidelines and instructions. Following the reception, any remaining food will be boxed for the family to take home.
3. You are welcome to use an outside caterer for the reception. However, the caterer must contact the Memorial Ministries Coordinator to receive instructions and guidelines. Please ask the caterer to supply the proper containers for you to take home leftover food.

For a memorial service followed by an on-site reception, the ushers will carry floral arrangements from the service location to the reception (if necessary).

After the reception concludes, MDPC facilities staff will dispose of any remaining floral arrangements, unless the family has made other plans.

## Memorial Service Reception Catering Menu

As a gift to MDPC members, Caring Ministries will provide punch and cookies for 30 people, and unlimited coffee, iced tea, and water. Tablecloths, plastic plates, flatware, napkins, and cups also are provided.

Prices are subject to change. Please note: For items other than cookies and punch, the kitchen needs a three-day notice to cater a reception. Occasionally the kitchen is closed during the holidays and unable to cater.

1. Punch (cups and napkins provided) \$12 / gallon  
1 gallon serves 25 people

The following items are tastefully presented on silver trays:

2. Homemade Desserts  
Cookies \$6 / dozen  
*Sugar, Oatmeal, Chocolate Chip, or Assorted*  
Brownies \$8 / dozen
3. Rollups \$75 / 100  
*Club Rollups or Southwest Rollups*
4. Fresh Fruit Tray  
*Grapes and strawberries, yogurt dip, option to add cheese*  
50 people (1 tray) \$55  
with cheese \$65
5. Vegetable and Cheese Tray  
*Cheddar cheese, Pepper Jack cheese, assorted vegetables with ranch dip*  
50 people (1 tray) \$65
6. Relish Tray  
*Pickles, black & green olives, pickled carrots, pickled okra*  
50 people (1 tray) \$65  
with cheese \$75
7. Croissant Sandwiches \$60 / dozen  
*Choice of turkey or ham with Cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomatoes*  
*Mustard and mayonnaise on the side*
8. Finger Sandwiches \$35 / 40 pieces  
*Choice of turkey, ham, pimento cheese, and cucumber*

# Order of Service and Program

A memorial service may include hymns, instrumental and vocal music, Scripture readings, eulogies, meditation, and prayers. The Order of Service sample below is to familiarize you with terminology and typical service structure. Please note that each pastor has his or her preferred Order of Service, which will be similar to the sample below, but may not match it exactly.

The Memorial Ministries Coordinator will prepare a simple Order of Service printed program for distribution to family and guests at the service.

## Prelude

An organist or pianist plays as guests arrive and the family is seated.

## Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation

The pastor begins by calling the congregation to worship and offering a brief prayer.

## Time of Remembrance

Individuals may offer eulogies at this point in the service. We suggest no more than three speakers. Each should prepare written comments, and speaking time should be limited to three minutes per contributor.

## Reading of Scripture

The pastor or selected family members read Scripture that points to the promise of salvation received through Christ. Often, the readings begin with Old Testament Scripture and end with a New Testament reading. A selection of Scripture passages are provided in the following pages.

## Homily/Meditation

The pastor delivers a Meditation to declare the Gospel and address the circumstances of the day.

## Pastoral Prayer

The pastor offers a Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession. The Lord's Prayer may be recited by the congregation, or sung as a solo.

## Benediction

The pastor closes the service by pronouncing the Benediction.

## Music

Congregants may sing a hymn or special music may be performed by a soloist.

## Postlude

An organist or pianist plays as the family is escorted from the Sanctuary or Chapel and worshipers are dismissed.

# Arranging for Music

The Memorial Ministries Coordinator will assist you in making music selections and arrange for the organist, pianist, soloist, and other musicians.

We suggest the following as possible hymns for solos or congregational singing:

## HYMNS

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*  
*Amazing Grace*  
*For All the Saints*  
*How Firm A Foundation*  
*Our God, Our Help, In Ages Past*  
*Blessed Assurance*  
*Crown Him With Many Crowns*  
*It Is Well With My Soul*  
*How Great Thou Art*  
*The Old Rugged Cross*  
*Softly and Tenderly*  
*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
*On Eagles' Wings*  
*Sweet Hour of Prayer*  
*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
*In the Garden*  
*My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*  
*My Jesus, I Love Thee*  
*Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me*  
*I'll Fly Away*  
*Eternal Father, Strong To Save*  
*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
*The Church's One Foundation*

## SOLOS

*Pie Jesu*  
*The Lord's Prayer*  
*Panis Angelicus*  
*On Eagles' Wings*  
*It Is Well With My Soul*  
*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
*How Great Thou Art*  
*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
*My Tribute*  
*I Can Only Imagine*  
*Held* by Natalie Grant  
*Come to Jesus* by Chris Rice  
*Cornerstone (My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less)*

# Scriptures of Hope

## OLD TESTAMENT

### Job 19:23-27

<sup>23</sup>O, that my words were written down! O, that they were inscribed in a book!

<sup>24</sup>O, that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever!

<sup>25</sup>For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last He will stand upon the earth; <sup>26</sup>and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup>whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

### Psalm 27

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and foes, they shall stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. <sup>4</sup>One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

<sup>5</sup>For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will set me high on a rock. <sup>6</sup>Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! <sup>8</sup>"Come," my heart says, "seek His face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

<sup>9</sup>Do not hide Your face from me. Do not turn Your servant away in anger, You who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! <sup>10</sup>If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

<sup>11</sup>Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. <sup>12</sup>Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have

risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. <sup>13</sup>I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. <sup>14</sup>Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

### Psalm 28:6-7

<sup>6</sup>Blessed be the LORD, for He has heard the sound of my pleadings. <sup>7</sup>The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song, I give thanks to Him.

### Psalm 65:1-8

<sup>1</sup>"Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion; and to You shall vows be performed, <sup>2</sup>O You who answer prayer! To You all flesh shall come. <sup>3</sup>When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, You forgive our transgressions. <sup>4</sup>Happy are those whom You choose and bring near to live in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple.

<sup>5</sup>By awesome deeds, You answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. <sup>6</sup>By Your strength, You established the mountains; You are girded with might. <sup>7</sup>You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. <sup>8</sup>Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by Your signs; You make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy."

### Psalm 90

<sup>1</sup>Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. <sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. <sup>3</sup>You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals." <sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

<sup>5</sup>You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; <sup>6</sup>in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. <sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by Your anger; by Your wrath we are overwhelmed. <sup>8</sup>You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

<sup>9</sup>For all our days pass away under Your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. <sup>10</sup>The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

<sup>11</sup>Who considers the power of Your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due You. <sup>12</sup>So, teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.

<sup>13</sup>Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on Your servants! <sup>14</sup>Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. <sup>15</sup>Make us glad as many days as You have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. <sup>16</sup>Let Your work be manifest to Your servants, and Your glori-

ous power to their children. <sup>17</sup>Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands. O, prosper the work of our hands!

### **Psalm 103:13-19**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear Him. <sup>14</sup>For He knows how we were made; He remembers that we are dust. <sup>15</sup>As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; <sup>16</sup>for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

<sup>17</sup>But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, <sup>18</sup>to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments. <sup>19</sup>The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His Kingdom rules over all.

### **Psalm 116:1-15**

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my supplications. <sup>2</sup>Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. <sup>3</sup>The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. <sup>4</sup>Then I called on the Name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. <sup>6</sup>The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low, He saved me. <sup>7</sup>Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

<sup>8</sup>For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. <sup>9</sup>I walk before the LORD in the land of the living. <sup>10</sup>I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; <sup>11</sup>I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar."

<sup>12</sup>What shall I return to the LORD for all His bounty to me? <sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the LORD, <sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people. <sup>15</sup>Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His faithful ones.

### **Psalm 121**

<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 forevermore.

### **Psalm 130**

<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, 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.

### **Psalm 139:1-18; 23-24**

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, You have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from far away. <sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, You know it completely. <sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before, and lay Your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there. <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, <sup>10</sup>even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me fast. <sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," <sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to You; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to You.

<sup>13</sup>For it was You who formed my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; that I know very well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In Your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. <sup>17</sup>How weighty to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup>I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with You.

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me, and know my thoughts. <sup>24</sup>See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

### **Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-30 (Ode to a Capable Wife)**

<sup>10</sup>A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. <sup>11</sup>The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. <sup>12</sup>She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

<sup>25</sup>Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. <sup>26</sup>She

opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
<sup>27</sup>She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. <sup>28</sup>Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband, too, and he praises her: <sup>29</sup>“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” <sup>30</sup>Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>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;

<sup>3</sup>a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 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.

<sup>9</sup>What gain have the workers from their toil? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything suitable for its time.

### **Isaiah 40:27-31**

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

### **Isaiah 43:2-3**

<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 Savior.

### **Isaiah 55:3-6a**

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to Me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, My steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for

He has glorified you. <sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

### **Isaiah 61:1-3**

<sup>1</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 brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, 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."

### **Isaiah 65:17-19**

<sup>17</sup>“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. <sup>18</sup>But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. <sup>19</sup>I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in My people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.”

### **Daniel 12:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>At that time, Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But, at that time, your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars, forever and ever.

### **Zechariah 8:3-8**

<sup>3</sup>Thus says the LORD: "I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts shall be called the holy mountain." <sup>4</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. <sup>5</sup>And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets."

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to Me?" says the LORD of hosts. <sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I will save My people from the east country and from the west country; <sup>8</sup>and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be My people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness."



### **Jeremiah 29:4-14**

<sup>4</sup>Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup>"Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup>Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup>But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

<sup>8</sup>For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, <sup>9</sup>for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in My Name; I did not send them, says the Lord."

<sup>10</sup>For thus says the Lord: "Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you My promise and bring you back to this place.

<sup>11</sup>For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup>Then when you call upon Me and come and pray to Me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>When you search for Me, you will find Me; if you seek Me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup>I will let you find Me," says the Lord, "and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you," says the Lord, "and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile."

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

### **Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Now when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, <sup>2</sup>and He began to teach 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 be shown 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 sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

### **Matthew 11:25-30**

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was Your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

<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."

### **John 6:37-40**

<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 11:21-27**

<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 14:1-6, 27**

<sup>1</sup>"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. ... <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I

do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

### **John 16:22**

"So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

### **Romans 8 (Selected Verses)**

<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>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against 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 Lord.

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

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

### **1 Corinthians 13**

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### **1 Corinthians 15 (Selected Verses)**

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ... <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as He has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

<sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. <sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ... <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. <sup>58</sup>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**

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

### **2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. <sup>2</sup>Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>because when we

are clothed, we will not be found naked.

<sup>4</sup>For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup>We live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>So we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup>For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>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, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Ephesians 1:11**

In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.

### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

<sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. <sup>4</sup>But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages He

might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### **Colossians 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>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.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup>Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.

<sup>15</sup>According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage each other with these words.

### **Hebrews 12:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup>Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

### **2 Timothy 4:6b-8**

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 me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.

### **1 John 3:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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 14:13**

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow."

### **Revelation 21:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>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 as their God; 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. And behold, God will make all things new!"

### **Revelation 22:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him; <sup>4</sup>they will see His face, and His Name will be on their foreheads.

<sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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