

# A Guide to Memorials at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church offers this guidance in thinking about the burial liturgy:

*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.*

— *Book of Common Prayer, p. 507*

Here at St. Timothy's, we are honored to work with you in giving thanks for the life of your loved one while also supporting you and your friends and family in their grief. If your loved one was not a member of this church, we will be eager to learn more about them, what they cared about, and what made their life meaningful, so that we can craft a service that reflects the gift that they were. The memorial services we offer are Christian worship services following the Episcopal tradition, as laid out in our Book of Common Prayer (or alternatives in our Book of Occasional Services). Our hope is that this document can serve as a guide to you as you begin this important work, which can be emotionally and spiritually demanding. You are in our prayers, and we are glad to be companions with you as you make your way through.

**Phone:** (650) 967.4724

**Website:** [www.sttims.org](http://www.sttims.org)

**Address:** 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View CA 94040

## Scheduling a Service

You may inquire about scheduling a memorial service by contacting our Rector, the Rev. Nikky Wood. Nete, our Administrative Assistant, can confirm the availability of the church. We typically do not celebrate memorial services on Fridays or Sunday mornings. In thinking about what time of day you would like to schedule your service, you may want to consider if you would like to have a reception afterwards, and if so, if you would like it to be a full lunch or light finger food. Depending on your preference, you can then choose your timing accordingly. Typically, these services last between forty-five minutes and an hour and fifteen minutes, depending on the size of the gathering, if there is music, and if we celebrate the Eucharist.

## Worship Planning

The order of the worship service will be according to the *Book of Common Prayer*. We primarily use Rite 2, which has more contemporary language, though the traditional language of Rite 1 is available if that is your preference.

### *Readings*

We invite you to choose scripture readings appropriate to the occasion. There are suggestions provided later in this document.

You can choose as many as four readings:

- One reading from the Old Testament
- A Psalm (read or sung)
- One reading from the Epistles (the letters in the New Testament)
- One reading from a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John).

You can also choose to have fewer readings. If we celebrate the Eucharist as part of the service, at least one of the readings needs to be from a Gospel. It is possible to include non-scriptural readings, with the approval of the clergy.

### *Communion*

The Eucharist (Holy Communion) may be celebrated as part of the service — this is particularly appropriate when the deceased was a member of the community or when people attending the service include a large number of church members. It is our practice to offer gluten- and dairy-free bread, and wine. We make it clear during the service that all who seek God, regardless of background or denomination, are welcome to receive.

### *Homily and Remembrances*

Our clergy will offer a short homily. If desired, one or two family members or friends may offer a brief remembrance. We ask that they write their remarks out ahead of time, and keep them to 400 words or less and under three minutes. As this is a short amount of time, we encourage you to focus on one moment, image, or story that speaks to an important facet of what made your loved one quintessentially themselves.

If you would like to create space for extended remembrances or “open mic” sharing, this storytelling will fit best during a reception following the service. Similarly, slideshows can be a wonderful way to remember your loved one, and they also fit best during the reception.

### *Remains*

You will need to decide whether or not remains (an urn of ashes or coffin) will be present for the service. While either choice is appropriate, it is often deeply meaningful to have the remains present. While this may evoke tender emotions, we find that it is helpful in the grieving process. Having the remains present can help you feel that you are giving your loved one over to God, which can be a great comfort. When ashes are present, we typically cover them with a white linen, provided by the church. The shape of the liturgy is similar whether or not remains are present. The Paschal Candle is present at all memorials, as a symbol of Christ’s death and resurrection.

### *Committal*

If the burial of the body or interment of ashes will follow the service, please discuss with the clergy to arrange timing and details.

### *Roles for the Service*

There are various roles for the service, which you may choose to fill with family and friends, or which we can fill with church members. These include:

- Ushers
- Readers for all the readings except the Gospel
- Intercessor (prayer leader)
- Lay Eucharistic Minister (must be a church member) if there will be communion

### *Bulletins/Slides*

After we plan the service together, our music director will prepare a bulletin, and you will have a chance to proofread a draft before we print it. This is typically a simple outline of the service. A photograph of your loved one may be included on the cover; please email this to Peter Sammel. Many people also like to include a biography in the back of the bulletin. Unless otherwise requested, our services use slides for the congregation to participate with responses and music. Our music director will prepare these for the memorial service.

Information for the bulletins and slides (including choice of readings, names of family/friends filling roles in the service, biography, picture, final music selections, etc) must be finalized at **minimum** a week before the date of the service.

### *Livestream*

If you wish to share the service with people who cannot be present in person, there is an option of livestreaming it via our website, which also creates a video recording.

### *Military Honors*

If your loved one served in the military, please contact the military as soon as possible if you would like to have military honors at their service. Our practice is to have these honors take place before our worship service begins.

## Music

Peter Sammel, our music director, welcomes your suggestions and ideas around music. Taking your ideas and inspirations to heart, Peter will work with Rev. Nikky to choose music that is appropriate to the liturgical setting, accessible to those attending, and will honor your loved one. If you are interested in having other musicians (singers or instrumentalists) participate, whether family/friends or professionals, you will need to negotiate this with Peter. Please check with him before extending invitations to other musicians. Please note that it is our practice to only include live music during the service. A stipend for the Music Director is appreciated but not required for members of St. Timothy's (\$300 is the rate suggested by the Guild of Organists).

Occasionally, there are particular songs that are important to the family that are not appropriate to the liturgy, for example some secular songs. It can be wonderful to play recordings of these meaningful songs during the reception or create a playlist through a service like Spotify to share with your family and friends.

## Flowers

If you would like flowers for the service, we would be glad to work with your florist. Occasionally, our parish Flower Guild is available to help create your arrangement. Depending on the timing of the service, you may choose to use the flowers from our Sunday service, or to donate them for the following Sunday. In this case, flowers will be appropriate to the liturgical season, and can be discussed with Cindy Jarvis, our head of Altar and Flower Guild. Donations for flowers to be used in St. Timothy's Sunday services are \$75. Other flower arrangements should be made directly with a florist; delivery will need to be arranged with someone from St. Tim's who has access to let them into the church or hall.

Medium to large arrangements in a vase or container (no more than 30 inches tall, from the base of the arrangement) look lovely in front of the altar. Standing arrangements or easel sprays of flowers and/or smaller table-top arrangements can fit well in the Parish Hall for a reception. Of course, no flowers are necessary.

## Photos

Many people like to bring a framed photo (5x7 or 8x11) of their loved one to set next to the urn during the service. If you would like to bring other photos, (framed, on posterboards, or in other arrangements) they can fit wonderfully in the Parish Hall during the reception or next to the guestbook when people arrive. We have rectangular folding tables that can be used for a display. Sometimes people like to bring other mementos or meaningful objects of their loved ones to display with the photos.

## Guestbook

People often like to have a guestbook, to make it easier to look back and remember who joined you in celebrating the life of your loved one. This is not required but if you would like to have one, we can put it on a table near the entrance to the church, and if you have a reception, it can be moved to the Parish Hall at that time.

## Reception

The Parish Hall is available for a \$300 fee for receptions after the memorial service. You can arrange for this with our Administrative Assistant. The family is responsible for all set-up and clean-up of the space. From time to time, members of our Hospitality Committee may be available for support and assistance.

We have 8 round tables, which can fit 6-7 people a piece, in the Parish Hall. A few rectangular tables are also available for setting out food and drinks. The kitchen has a coffeemaker you may use, and caterers may use the kitchen as a staging area.

### *Alcohol*

Beer and wine may be served (no hard liquor) **as long as** non-alcoholic beverages are presented in equal measure. If you serve alcohol, you **must** designate an adult (21 years or older) to take responsibility for pouring and monitoring people's consumption so as to ensure no one is unsafe to drive home afterwards.

## Fees

Checks should be delivered to the Parish Office before the date of the service. Please make your check payable to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. You can also pay online via Realm ([realm.org/sttimothy/give/pledgeorsupport](http://realm.org/sttimothy/give/pledgeorsupport)).

\_\_\_\_\_ \$300 Reception in Parish Hall

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75 Flower donation (for flowers to be used the previous/following Sunday)

## Contacts

Administrative Assistant: Nete Christoffersen, [admin@sttims.org](mailto:admin@sttims.org)

Rector: The Rev. Nikky Wood, [nikky@sttims.org](mailto:nikky@sttims.org)

Music Director: Peter Sammel, [peter@sttims.org](mailto:peter@sttims.org)

Altar/Flower Guild: Cindy Jarvis, [cjTruBluBerries@outlook.com](mailto:cjTruBluBerries@outlook.com)

## Parish Office

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## St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Mountain View

### Suggested readings for Funerals and Memorial Services

from *The Book of Common Prayer*, the *Book of Occasional Services*, and *Enriching Our Worship*.

For a complete list, see BCP pages 494-495, BOS p. 234 (Burial of One Who Does Not Profess the Christian Faith), or EOW 2 p. 134 (the Burial of a Child).

<h3>From the Old Testament</h3>
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#### **Isaiah 25:6-9** (*He will swallow up death for ever*)

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

#### **Isaiah 61:1-3** (*To comfort those who mourn*)

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

#### **Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33** (*The Lord is good to those who wait for him*)

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

#### **Wisdom 3:1-5, 9** (*The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God*)

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others

they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

**Job 19:21–27a** (*I know that my Redeemer lives*)

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? ‘O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1–11** (*For everything there is a season*)

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

a time to be born, and a time to die;  
 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;  
 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
 a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
 a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
 a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
 a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
 a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
 a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
 a time to love, and a time to hate;  
 a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

<p><b>From the Psalms</b></p>
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*Can use a subsection of verses from any of these or other Psalms.*

**Psalm 23** (*Book of Common Prayer version*)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.  
 He makes me lie down in green pastures  
     and leads me beside still waters.  
 He revives my soul



and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.  
 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
 for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
 you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Psalm 23** (*King James Bible* version)

The Lord is my shepherd;  
 I shall not want.  
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
 he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
 He restoreth my soul;  
 he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
 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.  
 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
 thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Psalm 27**

God is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
 God is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?  
 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,  
 it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.  
 Though an army should encamp against me,  
 yet my heart shall not be afraid;  
 And though war should rise up against me,  
 yet will I put my trust in God.  
 One thing have I asked of you, O God; one thing I seek:  
 that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life,  
 To behold your fair beauty, O God,  
 and to seek you in your temple.  
 For in the day of trouble you shall keep me safe in your shelter;  
 you shall hide me in the secrecy of your dwelling and set me high upon a rock.  
 Even now you lift up my head  
 above my enemies round about me.  
 Therefore I will offer in your dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness;  
 I will sing and make music to you.  
 Hearken to my voice, O Most High, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.  
 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."  
 Your face, O God, will I seek.  
 Hide not your face from me,  
 nor turn away your servant in displeasure.  
 You have been my helper; cast me not away;  
 do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.  
 Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
 you will sustain me.  
 Show me your way, O God;  
 lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.  
 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,  
 or false witnesses have risen up against me and also those who speak malice.  
 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of my God  
 in the land of the living!  
 O tarry and await God's pleasure; be strong, and let your heart take comfort;  
 wait patiently for God.

#### **Psalm 42**

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

#### **Psalm 90**

Lord, you have been our refuge, from one generation to another.  
 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,  
 from age to age you are God.  
 You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth."  
 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
 and like a watch in the night.  
 You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass.

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

### **Psalm 106**

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

### **Psalm 121**

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

### **Psalm 130**

Out of the depths have I called to you; O God, hear my voice;  
     let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.  
 If you were to note what is done amiss,  
     O God, who could stand?  
 For there is forgiveness with you;  
     therefore you shall be feared.  
 I wait for you, O God; my soul waits for you;  
     in your word is my hope.  
 My soul waits for you, more than sentries for the morning,  
     more than sentries for the morning.  
 O Israel, wait upon God,  
     for with God there is mercy.

With God there is plenteous redemption;  
 God shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

### **Psalm 139**

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

<b>From the Epistles and the Book of Revelation</b>
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### **Romans 8:14–19, 34–35, 37–39** *(The glory that shall be revealed)*

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who

was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 35–38, 42–44, 53–58** (*The imperishable body*)

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. But someone will ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?’ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

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

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to

be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

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

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

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

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the 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 21:2–7** (*Behold, I make all things new*)

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. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

**From the Gospels****Matthew 5: 1-10** (*Blessed are those who mourn*)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

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

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

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

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

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life. ‘Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

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

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

**John 10:11–16** (*I am the good shepherd*)

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

**John 11:17, 21–27** (*I am the resurrection and the life*)

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

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

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’

Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’