ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Funeral Service Information

All communicants in good standing should properly receive a Christian burial from the church, *not* a funeral home chapel. To that end, the custom at St. John's Church is that the Burial Service be a Requiem Mass. In other words, St. John's offers the *full* service as laid out in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer with traditional hymns or sacred music, a sermon, and commendation.

Holy Eucharist is ideally part of a Christian burial because in it we participate in Christ's victory over death and are connected with those who have died and now worship with the "angels, archangels and all the company of heaven" as living members of the Body of Christ. If desired, however, the Burial Office alone (without Eucharist) may be said or sung using the propers from the Book of Common Prayer.

Ideally this service is held at a time when the congregation has the opportunity to be present to offer these prayers on behalf of the departed.

Funeral arrangements should be made with the clergy in all cases, and it is assumed that in requesting the services of a priest of St. John's, the family expects a service in line with our Episcopal/Anglican tradition. Special requests may be made at the discretion of the Rector.

This form is for: _____

Completed by (if different): _____ *Relationship:* _____

Date Completed: _____ *Phone:* _____

☐ *Planning ahead* ☐ *Planning at the time of death*

General Information

About the person

Full name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Date of death: _____

Last place of residence: _____

Family contact (name & phone): _____

Baptized? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Communicant of St. John's? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The service

Date & time (to be scheduled with the church): _____

Communion? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Rite: ☐ Rite I (*traditional language*) ☐ Rite II (*contemporary language*)

☐ Said ☐ Sung

Incense? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Remembrance/Eulogy? ☐ Yes ☐ No *(up to 2 speakers, 3 minutes or about 300 words each)* Speaker name(s):_____

_____

_____

Live-streamed? ☐ Yes ☐ No Recorded? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Notify the parish of the date and time? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Casket or ashes

☐ Casket ☐ Ashes Present in the church? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If casket, number of pallbearers: _____ Names: _____

_____

_____

Final resting place

Committal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ St. John's Columbarium ☐ St. John's Memorial Garden ☐ Other: _____

St. John's Columbarium

Do you have a niche in the columbarium? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Niche number / location: _____

If you don't have a niche, would you like to reserve one? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

To reserve a niche, please contact the parish office at parish@stjohnstampa.org / 813-259-1570

Funeral home

Do you have a funeral home arranged? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name:_____

Contact person & phone:_____

Address / website: _____

Guests & logistics

Expected guests: _____ Reserved parking spaces: _____ Reserved pews: _____

Guest/condolence book? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Flowers ordered by: ☐ Family ☐ Altar Guild ☐ None Delivery time: _____

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts to: _____

_____

Reception

Reception? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Include in the bulletin? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Location:_____

Caterer: _____

Who is invited: _____

(Instructions on a reception at St John's are available in the Parish office.)

Liturgy Details

Who is the Officiant/Celebrant? _____

Who is the preacher?_____

Other assisting clergy and their roles:_____

Scripture Lessons

Note: One or two lessons are chosen. If a Requiem Mass, there must be at least two readings in total, the last of which being from the Gospel. For full texts of the readings, see **pages 9-21.**

Old Testament Lessons (if three readings are used, the first *must* be from the Old Testament)

- ☐ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory)
- ☐ Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all that mourn)
- ☐ Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good unto them that wait for him)
- ☐ Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God)
- ☐ Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer liveth)

Psalm (a Psalm is usually sung or said after the first reading)

- ☐ **23** (The Lord is my shepherd)
- ☐ **27** (The Lord is my light and my salvation)
- ☐ **42** (Like as the hart 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** (My delight is in the Lord)
- ☐ **121** (I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills)
- ☐ **130** (Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord)
- ☐ **139** (Lord, you have searched me out and known me)

- ☐ Other Psalm _____

New Testament Lessons

- ☐ Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (Raised in incorruption)
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things which are not seen are eternal)
- ☐ 1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
- ☐ Revelation 7:9-17 (God shall wipe away all tears)
- ☐ Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

Gospel Reading (at a Requiem, the Gospel must be read by a clergyperson)

- ☐ **John 5:24-27** (He that believeth hath everlasting life)
- ☐ **John 6:37-40** (All that the Father giveth me shall 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 mansions)
- ☐ **Matthew 6:25-33** (Do not be anxious about your life)

Readers:

1st Lesson _____

Psalm _____

2nd Lesson _____

Gospel (if a requiem, must be a clergyperson) _____

Music

It is our custom at St. John's to have only traditional hymns and sacred music at all our liturgies. If there is to be music, a meeting with our organist will be necessary. If you would like to hire members of the choir to perform, this will need to be arranged in advance with our choir director. Any outside musicians or special music requests will need to be pre-approved by the rector and/or organist.

Suggested Hymns

This is not an exhaustive list. Other sacred music or hymns may be chosen at the discretion of the organist/choir director.

Opening Hymn	*A Mighty Fortress is our God*	**688**
	Christ is made the sure foundation	**518**
	Eternal Father, strong to save	**608**
	For all the saints	**287**
	Holy, holy, holy	**362**
	Lord of all hopefulness	**482**
	O God, our help in ages past	**680**
	O worship the King, all glorious above!	**388**
	Praise to the living God	**372**
	Praise to the Lord, the almighty	**390**
	The strife is o'er, the battle done	**208**
Before the Gospel	*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart*	**488**
	Christ the Victorious	**358**
	Come down, O Love Divine	**516**
	Dear Lord and Father of mankind	**653**
	Jesus calls us o'er the tumult	**549**
	Lift High the Cross	**473**
	Lord, by thy word my rule	**626**
	Love divine, all loves excelling	**657**
	My shepherd will supply my need	**664**
	The God of Abraham praise	**401**
	The King of love my shepherd is	**645**

Offertory: *(Alternatively, the organist can play a solo during the offertory)*

Abide with me	**662**
Faith of our Fathers	**558**
Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah	**690**
I come with joy to meet my Lord	**304**
Jesus, Lover of my soul	**699**
Jesus, Son of Mary, fount of life	**357**
My faith looks up to thee	**691**
O for a thousand tongues to sing	**493**
O holy city, seen of John	**582**
The king of love my shepherd is	**645**
Thou art the Way, to thee alone	**457**

Communion: *If no Choir is present, it is suggested that the Organ play during Communion, or if there is a soloist:*
Panis Angelicus, César Franck

Final Hymn

Amazing Grace!	**671**
Glorious things of thee are spoken	**522**
How lovely is thy dwelling place	**517**
Jerusalem the golden	**624**
Jerusalem, my happy home	**620**
Lead on, O King eternal	**555**
Lo! He comes, with clouds descending	**57**
May choirs of angels lead you	**356**
O what their joy and their glory must be	**623**
Ye holy angels bright	**625**
Ye watchers and ye holy ones	**618**

Choices:

Opening Procession: _____

Sequence: _____

Offertory: _____

During Communion: _____

Closing Procession: _____

Organist: _____

Other Musicians: _____

Sexton: _____

Usher(s): _____

Crucifer: _____

Acolyte(s): _____

Chalice Bearers: _____

Assisting Clergy & their roles: _____

_____

_____

Other Notes: _____

Policies & Fees

Flowers – flowers offered to God in memory of the departed for the altar will be placed on the two flower stands. Any additional desired floral arrangements may be used to decorate the porch entrance of the church. Flower delivery must be coordinated with the Parish Administrator.

Fees – the clergy of St. John's do not charge for funeral services. However, an honorarium and/or donation may be given at the discretion of the family.

The services of an organist, choir, and live streaming as of 11/2026 are as follows:

Organist alone:	$250
Organist w/soloist or choir	$350
Soloist	$150
Other Choir members:	*Arranged with Choir Director*
Sexton Funeral	$125
Sexton Reception	$125
Acolytes	$25 per person
Live-stream/recording (optional)	$100

Full text of the Readings

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9

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

Isaiah 61:1-3

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

Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I

will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom 3:1-5,9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself.
Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

Job 19:21-27a

Job said,

"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 forever!
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."

The Psalm

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 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.

5 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.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 27

Dominus illuminatio

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.

5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *
and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the LORD will sustain me.

15 Show me your way, O LORD; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.

17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the LORD *
in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the LORD.

Psalm 42:1-7

Quemadmodum

1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
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 holy-day.

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

Deus noster refugium

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

Domine, refugium

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 when it is past *
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 106:1-5

Confitemini Domino

1 Hallelujah!
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

Psalm 116

Dilexi, quoniam

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.

5 The LORD watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the LORD has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD *
in the land of the living.

9 I believed, even when I said,
"I have been brought very low." *
In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Psalm 121

Levavi oculos

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

De profundis

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

Domine, probasti

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 resting-places *
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.

The Epistle

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

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

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

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal

weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling- if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

1 John 3:1-2

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

Revelation 7:9-17

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 worshiped God, singing,

> "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
> and thanksgiving and honor
> and power and might
> be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

> For this reason they are before the throne of God,
> and worship him day and night within his temple,
> and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 21:2-7

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 as their God;
> 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."

The Gospel

John 5:24-27

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.

"Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. "

John 6:37-40

Jesus said to the people, "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

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

John 11:21-27

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

Jesus said, "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."

Matthew 6:25-33

Jesus said, Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.