

REMINISCENCES OF YOUR LOVED ONE

St. Mark Lutheran Church
1120 Curlew Rd. Dunedin, FL 34698
(727) 733-0474
Pastor Katy A.H. Fast



The Memorial Service will be held on _____ at _____ AM or PM

It would be very helpful to us if you would share in writing some of your remembrances of your loved one, and return the first two pages to Pastor or the church office as soon as possible. This information is necessary to the preparation for the service.

Full name _____
First Middle Last Suffix (Maiden name)

When and where born? _____
Date of Birth City, State

Date of Baptism _____ Date of Confirmation _____

When and where died? _____
Date of Death City, State

Spouse name _____ date of marriage _____

Children's names:

Grandchildren's names:

Great-grandchildren's names:

Surviving parents, brothers, sisters:

Where raised? and any details about the growing-up years or birth family:

Year moved to Florida? From where?

Occupation (s)

Military service

Church involvement? Please give examples.

Community or neighborhood involvement? Please give examples.

Other activities, membership, hobbies, interests?

What year retired? Activities in retirement?

What five (5) words best describe your loved one's personality or character?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | |

If you would like to continue to share, we would welcome that.
Please use the space on the back page.

Choices for the Memorial Service

The Memorial Service Will be held on _____ At _____ AM or PM

- We would like to display photographs and mementos on a table in the Narthex.
- We would like to use the fellowship hall for a gathering after the service.
- We would like the Service to include Communion



HYMNS OF COMFORT, HOPE AND RESURRECTION

Generally, three (3) or four (4) hymns are used in the service.
If you wish, Pastor will assist you in choosing from the list,
or finding unlisted hymns that you would like sung.
These are merely suggestions.

Please circle or underline your choices for hymns.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

- #608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
- #619 I Know that My Redeemer Lives!
- #623 Rock of Ages
- #630 In Heaven Above
- #632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- #638 Blessed Assurance
- #656 Blest Be the Tie that Binds
- #660 Lift High the Cross
- #732 I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry
- #742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
- #755 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
- #759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee
- #779 Amazing Grace
- #781 Children of the Heavenly Father
- #785 It Is Well with My Soul
- #793 Be Thou My Vision
- #838 Beautiful Savior
- #840 Now Thank We All Our God
- #856 How Great Thou Art!
- Other



SCRIPTURE VERSES OF COMFORT, HOPE AND RESURRECTION

(The readings are printed out on the following pages)

Traditionally, one reading each is chosen from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the Gospels, and the other books of the New Testament. The list below is grouped accordingly.

Please circle or underline your choices for readings.

Old Testament readings:

Deuteronomy 31: 6-8
Job 19:25-26
Other

God will not fail us
I know my Redeemer lives

Psalms:

Psalms 23
Psalm 27
Psalm 46
Psalm 118
Psalm 121
Psalm 130
Other

The Lord is my Shepherd
The Lord is my Light and Salvation
God is our Refuge and Strength
The Lord is my Strength
My help comes from the Lord
I wait for the Lord

New Testament readings:

Romans 6: 5-11
Romans 8: 18-39
Romans 14: 7-9
1 Corinthians 15:12-26
1 Corinthians 15: 51-58
2 Corinthians 1: 3-7
2 Corinthians 4: 7-18
2 Corinthians 5: 1-8
2 Corinthians 12: 7-10
Philippians 3:7-21
Philippians 4: 4-7
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
1 Peter 1: 3-9
Revelation 7: 9-17
Revelation 21: 3-7
Other

United in Christ's death and resurrection
Nothing will separate us from God's love
Lord of the dead and the living
Christ has been raised from the dead
Death is swallowed up in victory
God of all comfort
We are perplexed, but not crushed
God's eternal home
God's grace is sufficient for us
The upward call of God in Christ Jesus
Have no anxiety, ...God's peace
Do not grieve as those who have no hope
Born anew to a living hope
Before the throne of God
God Himself will be with us

Gospel readings:

Matthew 6: 25-34
Mark 10: 13-16
Luke 2: 29-32
John 5: 24-29
John 11: 17-27
John 12: 23-26
John 14: 1-6
Other

Do not be anxious about your life
Let the children come to me
Now let your servant depart in peace
We have passed from death to life
Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life
A grain of wheat dies, then bears fruit
Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS:

Deuteronomy 31: 6-8 ⁶Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD you God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁷Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people in to the land that the LORD swore to their forefathers to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. ⁸The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Job 19: 25-26 ²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; ²⁶and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God.

PSALMS:

Psalm 23

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

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

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

⁴Though 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.

⁵You 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.

⁶Surely your 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

¹The 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?

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

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

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

⁵One 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;

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

⁷For 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
⁴The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown;
God shall help her at the break of day.
⁷The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
⁸The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
⁹Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, what awesome things he has done on earth.
¹⁰It 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."
¹²The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 118

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.
² Let Israel now proclaim, "His mercy endures forever."
³ Let the house of Aaron now proclaim, "His mercy endures forever."
⁴ Let those who fear the LORD now proclaim, "His mercy endures forever."
⁵ I called to the LORD in my distress; the LORD answered by setting me free.
⁶ The LORD is at my side, therefore I will not fear; what can anyone do to me?
⁷ The LORD is at my side to help me; I will triumph over those who hate me.
⁸ It is better to rely on the LORD than to put any trust in flesh.
⁹ It is better to rely on the LORD than to put any trust in rulers.
¹⁰ All the ungodly encompass me; in the name of the LORD I will repel them.
¹¹ They hem me in, they hem me in on every side; in the name of the LORD I will repel them.
¹² They swarm about me like bees; they blaze like a fire of thorns;
in the name of the LORD I will repel them.
¹³ I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, but the LORD came to my help.
¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.
¹⁵ There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:
¹⁶ "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"
¹⁷ I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.
¹⁸ The LORD has punished me sorely, but he did not hand me over to death.
¹⁹ Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.
²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD; he who is righteous may enter."
²¹ I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.
²² The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
²³ This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
²⁴ On this day the LORD has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
²⁵ Hosanna, LORD, hosanna! LORD, send us now success.
²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the LORD.
²⁷ God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
²⁸ "You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you."
²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Psalm 121

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

Psalm 130

- 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS:

Romans 6: 5-11 ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8: 18-39 ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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 ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

1 Corinthians 15: 12-26 ¹⁵Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15: 51-58 ⁵¹Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵²in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up by victory." ⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 ³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. ⁶If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

2 Corinthians 4: 7-18 ⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. ¹²So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. ¹³It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. ¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 5: 1-8 ¹Now 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. ²Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, ³because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴For 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. ⁵Now 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. ⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷We live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 12: 7-10 ⁷Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Philippians 3: 7-21 ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. ¹⁶Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Philippians 4: 4-7 ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 ¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Peter 1: 3-9 ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little

while you have had to suffer various trials,⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Revelation 7: 9-17⁹After 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.¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"¹¹ 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,¹² singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?"¹⁴ 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.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;¹⁷ 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: 3-7³And 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;⁴ 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."

⁵And 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."⁶ 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.⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children."

GOSPEL READINGS:

Matthew 6: 25-34²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.²⁹ Yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Mark 10: 13-16¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Luke 2: 29-32²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

John 5: 24-29 ²⁴"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

John 11: 17-27 ¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

John 12: 23-26 ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

John 14: 1-6 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.