

*South Santiago Lutheran Church*

## INFORMATION ON PREPARING FOR A FUNERAL



*South Santiago Lutheran Church*

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Clear Lake, MN 55319

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The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death, Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit and the community of faith.

The Church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

The church facility should be considered for the funeral service whenever possible. The church is where life begins as the baptized people of God. The church is the sacred space where we are nourished with the Word of God and the Sacraments. The Order for the Burial of the Dead provide the faith community words of hope, comfort, and thanksgiving in the midst of sorrow and grief.

South Santiago Lutheran Church is available to assist with most funeral preparations. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe our God-given mission *is* to reach people and connect with them through the love we believe God has showered upon not only *us*, but also upon the whole world. For this reason, during this difficult time for families and friends, we are here to help arrange for a meaningful and thoughtful service.

At the same time, our mission and ministry is not one of funeral arrangement, but of proclamation and embodiment of the Word of God. That mission is carried out mostly by loving and committed volunteers who are not funeral directors. We do what we are able to be accommodating, but we rely on and partner with the organization and expertise of the funeral home staff.

Choosing to work without a funeral home will incur additional cost with the church.

- 1) Our sanctuary can accommodate approximately 300 people.
- 2) During regular business hours, please contact the church office at 763-662-2048. If arrangements are necessary over the weekend, families and/or funeral homes may directly call the Pastor (651-341-3787).
- 3) We are available to assist in arranging for special music including an musician and a soloist, depending on their work schedules.

The SSLC musician will normally serve as the accompanist for the service. All music used in the service should be appropriate for a worship setting. Congregational hymns are encouraged and normally come from the LBW or WOV Hymnals to facilitate maximum participation from those attending the funeral. Hymns, solos, and other music should reflect the hope that is ours in



Prayer of Comfort:

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Poem:

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Remarks:

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Interment/Burial Place Name and Address:

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Obituary:

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Funeral Home and Address:

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List Pallbearers:

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Musical Tribute:

Musician \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

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the resurrection of Jesus. Familiar hymns are always appreciated because that allows the gathered congregation to sing with confidence.

4) The casket will be closed prior to the beginning of the funeral service and the casket will precede the family into the sanctuary for the funeral service. When the body has been cremated prior to the worship, the urn will be brought to the front of the church for the funeral service. It may be part of the procession or it may be placed in the front of the church prior to the service.

5) The Order for the Burial of the Dead will not be interrupted by the rites of secular organizations. Military honors are not considered part of Christian worship and are more appropriately carried out at the cemetery. If a veteran's funeral is held, the American flag will be removed prior to the casket's entrance into the sanctuary.

6) Funeral are not extended eulogies of the deceased but a vehicle of hope for the living. A family member may share their remembrances of the deceased, and those remembrances should be concise, written down, and seen as part of the worship. (The sharing of remembrances and stories can also be done in a very meaningful way at the visitation.)

7) It is very appropriate for family members and friends to be involved and assist in the funeral service as pallbearers, lectors, vocal or instrumental musicians.

8) SSLC as a congregation will serve cake and coffee following the funeral service. Additional food such as sandwiches can be catered in and served. The family will be responsible for any costs for food (except cake and coffee). If a meal is planned, the caterer will need to arrange for delivery of the meal as well as communicating delivery time and the number of expected people with the Funeral Coordinator.

9) The family may designate where memorial gifts will be given. Memorials are ways for the children of God to do those things Christ would want us to do.

More information is available by contacting our Funeral Coordinator in the church office.

**What is "membership" at SSLC?** For the purposes of "membership" on the next page, our Constitution defines "members" as those who "...during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation."



### **Member Services**

- There will be no charge to members for use of the sanctuary, narthex/fellowship hall or kitchen.
- The family will be responsible for purchasing any other food besides cake and coffee that is desired. We can provide assistance in planning amounts of food if necessary.
- All food must be at the church at least 2 hours prior to the service to allow time for necessary set up. A donation to the Women of South Santiago Lutheran Church would be accepted and appreciated for their time and help in serving.
- Pastoral service fees will be \$250.
- There will be a Custodial fee of \$150.
- The Musician's fee will be \$150.
- There will be a Mechanical Engineer fee of \$150.
- There will be a Funeral Coordinator fee of \$125.
- A \$150 damage deposit will be required, to be refunded if no damages occur.
- When working without a funeral home, an additional \$50 will be added both to the custodial and mechanical engineer fee.

### **Non Member Services**

- The fee for the use of the sanctuary will be \$100. There will also be a fee of \$140 for the use of the narthex/fellowship hall and kitchen.
- The family will be responsible for purchasing any other food besides cake and coffee that is desired. We can provide assistance in planning amounts of food if necessary.
- All food must be at the church at least 2 hours prior to the service to allow time for necessary set up. A donation to the Women of South Santiago Lutheran Church would be accepted and appreciated for their time and help in serving.
- Pastoral service fees will be \$250.
- There will be a Custodial fee of \$250.
- The Musician's fee will be \$200.
- There will be a Mechanical Engineer fee of \$200.
- There will be a Funeral Coordinator fee of \$125.
- A \$150 damage deposit will be required, to be refunded if no damages occur.
- When working without a funeral home, an additional \$50 will be added to the Custodial and Mechanical Engineer fees.

### **Cemetery Plots**

- Plots are available, check with Cemetery Sexton Bill Rogers for the cost. Checks should be made out to the SSLC Cemetery Board. Bill's phone number is 320-743-3031 for more information.



been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

### **Revelation 7:9-17**

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' '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 beautifully dressed for her husband. (Continued on next pg.) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

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 without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.



It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All 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.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. For 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. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

### **1 Peter 5:6-7**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

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

See what great love the Father has lavished on 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. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet



**The church is not staffed or skilled in all facets of funeral arranging. In recognition of this, whenever a memorial service or a funeral with a cremation urn occurs without the services of a funeral home, it will be the responsibility of the family to:**

- a. Contact SSLC to inform the Pastor or Church Secretary of the death and check the calendar of possibilities for the upcoming memorial/funeral service.
- b. Meet with the Pastor to plan the funeral/memorial service using the format of the Order for the Burial of the Dead. That meeting will address details regarding: music, scripture lessons, family or friend involvement in the service, tributes, luncheon planning, burial plans and other related items.
- c. It will be the family's responsibility to:
  - arrange the floral tributes at the service;
  - write and submit obituary to newspaper(s), local radio stations;
  - assemble and arrange photo boards;
  - provide a guest register if desired;
  - arrange for family/friends to serve as ushers and greeters;
  - set up and remove all flowers before and after service (and visitation, if needed);
  - responsible for removing all items related to the service from church;
  - provide any memorial cards for those attending the funeral/memorial service;
  - reimburse SSLC for the costs associated with the funeral/memorial service lunch;
  - be responsible for all honorariums to be paid prior to the date of the service;
  - be responsible for all cemetery arrangements for the burial at the SSLC Cemetery by calling Bill Rogers, or cemetery of choice;
  - contact Veteran's Affairs/VFW/American Legion if appropriate.

SSLC will provide the following for the Funeral/Memorial Service:

Worship bulletin with the order of service and scripture readings.



## **Suggestions for Songs:**

- Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds LBW # 143
- Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! LBW # 144
- Thine is the Glory LBW # 145
- Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! LBW # 147
- Jesus Christ is Risen Today LBW # 151
- Dearest Jesus, We Are Here LBW # 187
- Dearest Jesus, At Your Word LBW # 248
- My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less LBW # 294
- Just As I Am, Without One Plea LBW # 296
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past LBW # 320
- Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me LBW # 327
- Jerusalem, My Happy Home LBW # 331
- Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me LBW # 333
- Peace, To Soothe Our Bitter Woes LBW # 338
- O, Lord, Now Let Your Servant LBW # 339
- I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name LBW # 342
- Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer LBW # 343
- When Peace, Like a River LBW # 346
- Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand LBW # 351
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives LBW # 352
- What Wondrous Love Is This LBW # 385
- What a Friend We Have in Jesus LBW # 439
- Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound LBW # 448
- The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want LBW # 451
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is LBW # 456
- You Are the Way LBW # 464
- Children of the Heavenly Father LBW # 474
- My Faith Looks Up to Thee LBW # 479
- Breathe on Me, Breath of God LBW # 488
- He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought! LBW # 501
- Beautiful Savior LBW # 518
- How Great Thou Art LBW # 532
- This is My Father's World LBW # 554

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

For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

## **1 Corinthians 15:50-57**

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in 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. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When 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 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! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

## **2 Corinthians 4:7—5:7 any variety of selections**

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

(Continued on next page)



**John 11:21-27**

Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

**John 14:1-6**

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**John 14:27**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

**Romans 8:35-39**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



- Alleluia! Jesus is Risen WOV # 674
- We Walk by Faith and not by Sight WOV # 675
- Shall We Gather at the River WOV # 690
- Baptized in Water WOV # 693
- We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus WOV # 698
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand WOV # 731
- Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling WOV # 734
- Thy Holy Wings WOV # 741
- Day by Day WOV # 746
- I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry WOV # 770
- Eagle’s Wings WOV # 779
- My Life Flows On in Endless Song WOV # 781
- Jesus Loves Me ELW # 595
- Old Rugged Cross Other
- In the Garden Other

<b>F U N E R A L  H O M E S</b>	<b><u>Becker</u></b> Williams Dingmann 763-262-1454	<b><u>Big Lake-Monticello</u></b> Peterson Grimsmo 763-295-2918 peterson-grimsmochapel.com
	<b><u>Princeton</u></b> Williams Dingmann 763-389-1311	<b><u>Foley</u></b> Foley Funeral Home 320-968-7111 foleyfuneralhome.net
	<b><u>Sauk Rapids</u></b> Williams Dingmann 320-251-1454	<b><u>St. Cloud</u></b> Williams Dingmann 320-252-2522 williamsdingmann.com

**Contacts for floral arrangements in the area:**

- Foley Floral 320-968-7711 foleyfloral.com
- Coborns in Sauk Rapids 320-252-0910 coborns.com/floral
- Princeton Floral 763-389-3433 princetonfloralandgifts.com
- Big Lake Floral 763-263-3366 biglakefloral.com



## **Scripture Reading ideas:**

### **Job 14:1-15**

Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble. They spring up like flowers and wither away; like fleeting shadows, they do not endure. Do you fix your eye on them? Will you bring them before you for judgment? Who can bring what is pure from the impure? No one! A person's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed. So look away from him and let him alone, till he has put in his time like a hired laborer. At least there is hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. Its roots may grow old in the ground and its stump die in the soil, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth shoots like a plant. But a man dies and is laid low; he breathes his last and is no more. As the water of a lake dries up or a riverbed becomes parched and dry, so he lies down and does not rise; till the heavens are no more, people will not awake or be roused from their sleep. If only you would hide me in the grave and conceal me till your anger has passed! If only you would set me a time and then remember me! If someone dies, will they live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. You will call and I will answer you; you will long for the creature your hands have made.

### **Job 19:25-27**

I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

### **Isaiah 25:6-9**

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."



How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

### **Matthew 5:1-4**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

### **John 5:24-27**

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, 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. For 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 judge because he is the Son of Man.

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

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

### **John 10:11-16**

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep 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 are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.



### **Psalm 121**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

### **Psalm 124**

If the Lord had not been on our side—let Israel say—if the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us; the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us, the raging waters would have swept us away. Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the fowler’s snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

### **Psalm 139:1-18**

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

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### **Isaiah 40:1-8**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

### **Isaiah 41:10, 13**

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

### **Isaiah 43:1-3a**

But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead.

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

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, (Continued on next page)



to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

### **Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### **Psalm 27**

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord. Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior. Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me. Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations. I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.



### **Psalm 42**

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?" Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

### **Psalm 46**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.