

Remember Me

*To the living, I am gone
To the sorrowful, I will never return
To the angry, I was cheated
But to the happy, I am at peace
And to the faithful, I have never left
I cannot speak, but I can listen
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard
So as you stand upon the shore
Gazing at the beautiful sea, remember me
As you look in awe at a mighty forest
And its grand majesty, remember me
Remember me in your hearts,
In your thoughts, and the memories of the
Times we loved, the times we cried, the
Battle we fought and the times we laughed
For if you always think of me,
I will have never gone.*

Anon.

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Introduction.

Confronted with the mystery of death, human words are totally inadequate.
The only word that carries authority is the Word of God.

Our task is to let that word speak. At a time of loss, allow one's spirit to
drink them in, to savour them, and to feel the divine power in them.

This booklet offers a wide variety of readings that may help at this
difficult time.

“Thou hadst made us for thy self O Lord,
And our hearts shall not rest,
Until they rest in thee.”
(St. Augustine)

Readings from the Old Testament

(Choose one)



1. A reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-6.9)

Those who live a virtuous life may have a difficult time here, but God will reward them with immortality hereafter.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they did appear to die, 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; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

2. A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (25:6-9)

Death is the cause of many tears. But for those who trust in God the time will come when their tears will be wiped away.

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day it will be said: See this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

8. For all who knew and loved N. that they may draw inspiration from his / her life.

Lord hear us.

9. That the Lord may show compassion on those who mourn for N. and turn their darkness into light.

Lord hear us.

10. We pray that Jesus who is our resurrection and life, may give peace for ever to all who have died.

Lord hear us.

11. We pray for peace in our world, peace in our country and peace in our own lives.

Lord hear us.

12. For all the faithful departed, especially those who were dear to us: that freed from every shadow of death, they may take their place in new creation where all tears are wiped away.

Lord hear us.

13. For all our deceased relatives and friends: that the Lord may bring these and all the departed into the light of his presence.

Let us Pray. Lord hear us.

14. For all of us here present: that we may remember at all times, but especially at times of trouble and anxiety, that we are precious to God and that he will take care of us. We pray in faith.

Lord hear us.

Prayers of the Faithful

(Choose 4 or 5)

1. N. has departed his / her earthly home, may he / she reach the joy and peace of the Father's house.

Let us Pray. Lord hear us.

2. That we may let go of N. with confidence, knowing that N. is going into the hands of the heavenly Father.

We pray in faith. Lord hear us.

3. N. has finally reached the shore of eternity: now that all N. earthly tasks are completed, may N. enjoy rest from all N. labours.

We pray in faith. Lord hear us.

4. That N., whose life was suddenly cut short may now enter into the fullness of that life Christ won for us with his death.

Lord hear us.

5. We pray for all who have died especially N. may they all share in the joy and peace of Heaven.

Lord hear us.

6. For those who grieve over N. death: that through their faith in Christ their sorrow may soon be changed into joy.

Lord hear us.

7. For all those who cared for N. in his / her old age: that the Lord may reward them for their kindness and patience.

Lord hear us.

3. A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-8,11)

There is a season and a time for everything.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die,

A time to plant and a time to uproot,

A time to kill and a time to heal,

A time to tear down and a time to build,

A time to weep and a time to laugh,

A time to mourn and a time to dance,

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

A time to embrace and a time to refrain,

A time to search and a time to give up,

A time to keep and a time to throw away,

A time to tear and a time to mend,

A time to be silent and a time to speak,

A time to love and a time to hate,

A time to war and a time for peace.

God has made everything beautiful in its time.

This is the Word of the Lord

4. A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (4:7-15)

It is not the length of a person's life that matters, but the quality of it.

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest. Length of days is not what makes age honourable, nor number of years the true measure of life; understanding, this is man's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age. He has sought to please God, so God has loved him; as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up. He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding or treachery seduce his soul; for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade, and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart. Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved long life; his soul being

pleasing to the Lord, he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him. Yet people look on, uncomprehending; it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord, and protection his holy ones.

This is the Word of the Lord.

5. A reading from the Book of Job (19:23-27)

God vindicates those who put their trust in them.

Job said: "O that these words of mine were written down, inscribed on some monument with iron and chisel and engraving tool, cut into the rock for ever. This I know: that my Avenger lives, and he, the Last, will take his stand on earth. After my awakening, he will set me close to him, and from my flesh I shall look on God. He whom I shall see will take my part: these eyes will gaze on him and find him not aloof."

This is the Word of the Lord.

6. A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (61:1-3)

God sends his servant to comfort those who mourn.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our Lord; to comfort all who mourn; to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning.

This is the Word of the Lord.

11. A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (4:14-5:1)

When our earthly life is ended, God has an eternal home prepared for us in heaven

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen, but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

This is the Word of the Lord.

12. A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (5:1.6-9)

When our earthly life is over, God has an everlasting house built for us in heaven

We know that when the tent we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made of human hands, in the heavens. We are always full of confidence, then, when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight - we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

13. A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy (4:6-8)

As death approaches, Paul reflects on his life: he is happy about the past and hopeful for the future

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

9. A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (6:3-9)

Let us live a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus, we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him; Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

This is the Word of the Lord.

10. A reading from the Book of Revelation (21:1-4)

When the fullness of God's kingdom will be revealed, there will be no more sadness or mourning or death

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, a beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, "You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.

This is the Word of the Lord.

7. A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (49:8,14-16)

Just as a mother cannot forget her child, so God cannot forget us.

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favour I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you". But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me". "Can a woman forget her child at the breast, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Look, I have written your name on the palm of my hand."

This is the Word of the Lord.

8. A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (41:9-11.13-14)

These words of reassurance were spoken to God's people during a very dark time in their history. They are spoken to us now.

You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off. Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

All who are incensed against you will be ashamed and disgraced; those who strive against you will be as nothing and will perish. For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help". Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

This is the Word of the Lord.

9. A reading from the book of Sirach (2:1-9)

God upholds those who serve him in the many trials they encounter.

When you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for testing. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of calamity. Cling to him and do not depart, so that your last days may be prosperous.

Accept whatever befalls you, and in times of humiliation be patient. For gold is tested in the fire, and those found acceptable in the furnace of humiliation. Trust in him, and he will help you; make your ways straight, and hope in him. You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; do not stray, or else you may fall. You who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not be lost. You who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.

This is the Word of the Lord.

10. A reading from the book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

God's goodness and faithfulness enable those who trust in him to cope with anguish and affliction.

My soul is bereft of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "God is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord". The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: 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." It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

11. A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (35:3-6.10)

This contains a message of hope for those who are afflicted and afraid.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then their eyes will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy will be upon their heads; they will obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

7. A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Timothy (2:8-13)

If we die with him, then we shall live with him

Remember the Good News that I carry: "Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David"; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal - but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.

If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.

If we disown him, then he will disown us.

We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self.

This is the Word of the Lord

8. A reading from the First Letter of St. John (3:1-2)

We shall see him as he really is

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God, but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

(Choose one)

5. A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57)

Death is swallowed up in victory

I will tell you something that has been secret: that we are not all going to die, but we shall all be changed. This will be instantaneous, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. It will sound, and the dead will be raised, imperishable, and we shall be changed as well, because our present perishable nature must put on imperishability and this mortal nature must put on immortality.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of Scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death where is your victory? Death where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

6. A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

We shall stay with the Lord forever.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord forever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

This is the Word of the Lord

1. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

***Those who are sowing in rears
Will sing when they reap.***

When the Lord delivered Sion from bondage.
It seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter.
On our lips there were songs. **R**

The heathens themselves said:
What marvels the Lord worked for them!
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
As streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
Will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
Carrying seed for the sowing;
They come back, they come back, full of song,
Carrying their sheaves. **R**

2. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

The Lord is my light and my help:

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life:
Before whom shall I shrink? **R**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord.
For this I long.
To live in the house of the Lord
All the days of my life. **R**

Do not abandon or forsake me,
O God my help.
Though father and mother forsake me.
The Lord will receive me. **R**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
In the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord. **R**

3. A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (8:31-35, 37-39)

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Jesus Christ? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the 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 anything that exists, nor anything still 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 made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

4. A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans (14:7-12)

Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. We shall all have to stand before the judgement seat of God; as scripture says: By my life - it is the Lord who speaks - every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall praise God. It is to God, therefore, that each of us must give an account of himself.

This is the Word of the Lord.

New Testament

(Choose one)



1. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-36, 42-43)

Everyone who believes will receive forgiveness of sins.

Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, he commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the Word of the Lord.

2. A reading from the book the Apocalypse (1:1-7)

There will be no more death

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth: the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne. "You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them: they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

3. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

The Lord is my shepherd:

There is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my Shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path,
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness,
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff,
with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil,
my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell,
for ever and ever. **R**

4. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup:

it is you yourself who are my prize.

The lot marked out for me is my delight:

welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me. **R**

I will bless the Lord who gives me Counsel

who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight:

since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad:

even my body shall rest in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead,

nor let you beloved know decay. **R**

You will show me the path of life,

the fullness of joy in your presence,

at you right hand happiness forever. **R**

5. Responsorial Psalm

Response:

I will bless the Lord at all times.

I will bless the Lord at all times,

his praise always on his lips:

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

The angel of the Lord is encamped

around those who revere him,

to rescue them

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **R**

They call and the Lord hears

and rescues them in all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted:

those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R**

Many are the trials of the just

but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

He will keep guard over their bones,

not one of their bones shall be broken. **R**