**Funeral & Memorial Service Readings**

**St. Philip’s Episcopal Church**

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**Readings** (*Please select one of the five Readings taken from the Old Testament and provide your*

*selection on page 5of the Funeral & Memorial Service Planner. Thank you.)*

**I. Old Testament Readings:**

**Isaiah 25:6—9** *(He will swallow up death for ever)*

6On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
   a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
   of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.   
7And he will destroy on this mountain  
   the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
   the sheet that is spread over all nations;   
8he will swallow up death for ever.  
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
   and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
   for the Lord has spoken.   
9It will be said on that day,  
   Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
   This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
   let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
   because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
   to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;   
2to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour,  
   and the day of vengeance of our God;  
   to comfort all who mourn;   
3to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
   to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
   the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
   the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

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

22The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,[\*](javascript:void(0);)  
   his mercies never come to an end;   
23they are new every morning;  
   great is your faithfulness.   
24‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,  
   ‘therefore I will hope in him.’   
25The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
   to the soul that seeks him.   
26It is good that one should wait quietly  
   for the salvation of the Lord.

31For the Lord will not  
   reject for ever.   
32Although he causes grief, he will have compassion  
   according to the abundance of his steadfast love;   
33for he does not willingly afflict  
   or grieve anyone.

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

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

4 For though in the sight of others they were punished,   
their hope is full of immortality.   
5 Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,   
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;

9 Those who trust in him will understand truth,   
and the faithful will abide with him in love,   
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,   
and he watches over his elect.

**Job 19:21—27a** *(I know that my redeemer lives)*

21Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends,  
   for the hand of God has touched me!   
22Why do you, like God, pursue me,  
   never satisfied with my flesh?   
23‘O that my words were written down!  
   O that they were inscribed in a book!   
24O that with an iron pen and with lead  
   they were engraved on a rock for ever!   
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,  
27whom I shall see on my side,  
   and my eyes shall behold, and not another.  
   My heart faints within me!

**II. Psalms** *(Please select one from the following Psalm readings and circle your selections on page 5 of the Funeral & Memorial Service Planner. Thank you.)*

**Psalm 46** *Deus noster refugium*

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

5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.  
6 God is in the midst of her;

she shall not be overthrown;

God shall help her at the break of day

7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken  
 God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

8 The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jabob is our stronghold.

9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,

what awesome things he has done on earth.

10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world;

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,

and burns the shields with fire.

11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations;

I will be exalted in the earth.”

12 The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Psalm 90** *Domine, refugium*

1 Lord, you have been our refuge \*

from one generation to another.  
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,

or the land and the earth were born, \*

from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, \*

“Go back, O child of earth.”

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday

when it is past \*

and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; \*

we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*

in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; \*

we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, \*

and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; \*

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 The span of our life is seventy years,

perhaps in strength even eighty; \*

yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,

for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? \*

who rightly fears your indignation?

12 So teach us to number our days \*

that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

13 Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? \*

be gracious to your servants.

14 Satisfy us by your loving‑kindness in the morning; \*

so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us \*

and the years in which we suffered adversity.

16 Show your servants your works \*

and your splendor to their children.

 17 May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; \*

prosper the work of our hands;

prosper our handiwork.

**Psalm 121** *Levavi oculos*

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*

from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, \*

the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved \*

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The Lord himself watches over you; \*

the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*

nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; \*

it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and

your coming in, \*

from this time forth for evermore.

**Psalm 130** *De profundis*

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice; \*

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \*

O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*

therefore you shall be feared.  
4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \*

in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,

more than watchmen for the morning, \*

more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, \*

for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**Psalm 139** *Domine, probasti*

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*

you know my sitting down and my rising up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting‑places \*

and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*

but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before \*

and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*

it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*

where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning \*

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand will lead me \*

and your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, \*

and the light around me turn to night,”

11 Darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day; \*

darkness and light to you are both alike.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*

you knit me together in my mother’s womb.  
13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*

your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

14 My body was not hidden from you, \*

while I was being made in secret

and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;

all of them were written in your book; \*

they were fashioned day by day,

when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*

how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number

than the sand; \*

to count them all, my life span would need to

be like yours.

18 Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God! \*

You that thirst for blood, depart from me.

19 They speak despitefully against you; \*

your enemies take your Name in vain.

20 Do I not hate those, O Lord, who hate you? \*

and do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

21 I hate them with a perfect hatred; \*

they have become my own enemies.

22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \*

try me and know my restless thoughts.

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me \*

and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

**III**. **New Testament Readings**: *(Please select one reading from the six offered and provide your*

*selection on page 5 of the Funeral & Memorial Service Planner. Thank you.)*

**Romans 8:14—19, 34—35, 37—39** *(The glory that shall be revealed)*

14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba![\*](javascript:void(0);) Father!’ 16it is that very Spirit bearing witness[\*](javascript:void(0);) with our spirit that we are

children of God, 17and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. 18 I 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;

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.[\*](javascript:void(0);) 35Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 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.

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

20 But 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,[\*](javascript:void(0);) 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. 35 But someone will ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?’ 36Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 53For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ 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, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

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

16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18because 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. 5For 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. 2For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— 3if indeed, when we have taken it off[\*](javascript:void(0);) we will not be found naked. 4For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— 7for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

**Ephesians 2:17-22**

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; 18for through him both of us have [access](http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Ephesians+2:11-22&vnum=yes&version=nrsv) in one Spirit to the Father. 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20built upon the [foundation](http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Ephesians+2:11-22&vnum=yes&version=nrsv) of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

**1 John 3:1—2** *(We shall be like Him)*

1See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

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

9After 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. 10They cried out in a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’   
11And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living

creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, 12singing,  
‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’ 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ 14I 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.   
15For 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. 16They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 17for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

**Revelation 21: 2—7** *(Behold, I make all things new)*

2And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,and God himself will be with them; 4he 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.’ 6Then 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. 7Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

**IV. Psalms** *(Please select one from the following Psalm readings and provide your selection on page 5 of the Funeral & Memorial Service Planner. Thank you.)*

**Psalm 23**

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; \*

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those

who trouble me; \*

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life, \*

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Psalm 27** *Dominus illuminatio*

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;

whom then shall I fear? \*

the Lord is the strength of my life;

of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \*

it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who

stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me, \*

yet my heart shall not be afraid;

4 And though war should rise up against me, \*

yet will I put my trust in him.

5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;

one thing I seek; \*

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days

of my life;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord \*

and to seek him in his temple.

618 *Psalm 27*

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe

in his shelter; \*

he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling

and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head \*

above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation

with sounds of great gladness; \*

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \*

have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face.” \*

Your face, Lord, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, \*

nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;

cast me not away; \*

do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*

the Lord will sustain me.

15 Show me your way, O Lord; \*

lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*

for false witnesses have risen up against me,

and also those who speak malice.

17 What if I had not believed

that I should see the goodness of the Lord \*

in the land of the living!

*Psalm 28* 619

18 O tarry and await the Lord’s pleasure;

be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*

wait patiently for the Lord.

**Psalm 106**

**Part I** *Confitemini Domino*

1 Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*

for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord \*

or show forth all his praise

3 Happy are those who act with justice \*

and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have

for your people, \*

and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect

and be glad with the gladness of your people, \*

that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; \*

we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

7 In Egypt they did not consider your marvelous works,

nor remember the abundance of your love; \*

they defied the Most High at the Red Sea.

8 But he saved them for his Name’s sake, \*

to make his power known.

9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up, \*

and he led them through the deep as through a desert.

10 He saved them from the hand of those who hated them \*

and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

**Psalm 90** *Domine, refugium*

1 Lord, you have been our refuge \*

from one generation to another.  
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,

or the land and the earth were born, \*

from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, \*

“Go back, O child of earth.”

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday

when it is past \*

and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; \*

we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*

in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; \*

we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, \*

and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; \*

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 The span of our life is seventy years,

perhaps in strength even eighty; \*

yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,

for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? \*

who rightly fears your indignation?

12 So teach us to number our days \*

that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

13 Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? \*

be gracious to your servants.

14 Satisfy us by your loving‑kindness in the morning; \*

so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us \*

and the years in which we suffered adversity.

16 Show your servants your works \*

and your splendor to their children.

11 The waters covered their oppressors; \*

not one of them was left.

12 Then they believed his words \*

and sang him songs of praise.

13 But they soon forgot his deeds \*

and did not wait for his counsel.

14 A craving seized them in the wilderness, \*

and they put God to the test in the desert.

15 He gave them what they asked, \*

but sent leanness into their soul.

16 They envied Moses in the camp, \*

and Aaron, the holy one of the Lord.

17 The earth opened and swallowed Dathan \*

and covered the company of Abiram.

18 Fire blazed up against their company, \*

and flames devoured the wicked.

**Psalm 106: Part II** *Et fecerunt vitulum*

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb \*

and worshiped a molten image;

20 And so they exchanged their Glory \*

for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

21 They forgot God their Savior, \*

who had done great things in Egypt,

22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, \*

and fearful things at the Red Sea.

23 So he would have destroyed them,

had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, \*

to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

24 They refused the pleasant land \*

and would not believe his promise.

25 They grumbled in their tents \*

and would not listen to the voice of the Lord.

26 So he lifted his hand against them, \*

to overthrow them in the wilderness,

27 To cast out their seed among the nations

and to scatter them throughout the lands.

28 They joined themselves to Baal-Peor \*

and ate sacrifices offered to the dead.

 29 They provoked him to anger with their actions, \*

and a plague broke out among them.

30 Then Phinehas stood up and interceded, \*

and the plague came to an end.

31 This was reckoned to him as righteousness \*

throughout all generations for ever.

32 Again they provoked his anger at the waters of Meribah, \*

so that he punished Moses because of them;

33 For they so embittered his spirit \*

that he spoke rash words with his lips.

34 They did not destroy the peoples \*

as the Lord had commanded them.

35 They intermingled with the heathen \*

and learned their pagan ways,

36 So that they worshiped their idols, \*

which became a snare to them.

37 They sacrificed their sons \*

and their daughters to evil spirits.

38 They shed innocent blood,

the blood of their sons and daughters, \*

which they offered to the idols of Canaan

and the land was defiled with blood.

39 Thus they were polluted by their actions \*

and went whoring in their evil deeds.

40 Therefore the wrath of the Lord was kindled against

his people \*

and he abhorred his inheritance.

41 He gave them over to the hand of the heathen, \*

and those who hated them ruled over them.

42 Their enemies oppressed them, \*

and they were humbled under their hand.

43 Many a time did he deliver them,

but they rebelled through their own devices, \*

and were brought down in their iniquity.

44 Nevertheless, he saw their distress, \*

when he heard their lamentation.

45 He remembered his covenant with them \*

and relented in accordance with his great mercy.

46 He caused them to be pitied \*

by those who held them captive.

47 Save us, O Lord our God,

and gather us from among the nations, \*

that we may give thanks to your holy Name

and glory in your praise.

48 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

from everlasting and to everlasting; \*

and let all the people say, “Amen!”

Hallelujah!

**Psalm 116** *Dilexi, quoniam*

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of

my supplication, \*

because he has inclined his ear to me whenever

I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;

the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*

I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: \*

“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; \*

our God is full of compassion.

5 The Lord watches over the innocent; \*

I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*

for the Lord has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*

my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord \*

in the land of the living.

9 I believed, even when I said,

“I have been brought very low.” \*

In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”

10 How shall I repay the Lord \*

for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*

and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*

in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord \*

is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; \*

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*

and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*

in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord’s house, \*

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Hallelujah!

**V. The Gospel** *( Please select one from the following Gospel readings, providing your selection on page 5 of the Funeral & Memorial Service Planner. Thank you.)*

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

24Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has

eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

25‘Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; 27and he has given him

authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man.

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

37Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; 38for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. 39And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

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

11 ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

**John 11:21—27** *(I am the resurrection and the life)*

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 14: 1—6** *(In my Father’s house are many rooms)*

1‘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.