

# **Preparing a Catholic Funeral Liturgy**

An Aid for Families

## **HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

271 Fourth Street Way  
Fond du Lac, WI 54937  
Phone: 920.921.0580  
[www.hffdl.org](http://www.hffdl.org)



## A Help to Plan These Sacred Gatherings

### ♦ Visitation

You are welcome to have up to **two hours of visitation** time at our church sites on the day of the funeral.

### ♦ Funeral Mass

#### Gathering Rites

Placing of Pall

Placing of Bible

Placing of Cross

Placing of Rosary (optional)

### ♦ Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading (see Pages 4-9)

New Testament Reading (see Pages 10-15)

Gospel (see Pages 16-22)

### ♦ Intercessions (see Page 23)

### ♦ Offertory Procession

### ♦ Liturgy of the Eucharist

### ♦ Final Commendation

### ♦ Committal

Committal prayers take place at the cemetery. In the event that there will not be cemetery rites on the day of the funeral, the committal prayers may take place at church.

### ♦ Music (See Pages 24-25)

## NOTES

Placement of Pall over the casket (2-6 people)

_____	_____
_____	_____

Placement of Christian Symbols

Bible\_\_\_\_\_

Cross\_\_\_\_\_

Rosary (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

1st Reading\_\_\_\_\_ Read by\_\_\_\_\_

2nd Reading\_\_\_\_\_ Read by\_\_\_\_\_

Gospel\_\_\_\_\_

Intercessions Read by\_\_\_\_\_

Offertory Gifts\_\_\_\_\_

Communion Ministers (church will provide)

#### ♦ Eulogy

A eulogy is never meant to replace the homily at a Funeral Mass or Liturgy of the Word. However, there is a provision for Words of Remembrance elsewhere during the funeral rites.

*The words of remembrance:*

Are delivered following the Prayer after Communion before the final Commendation, or at the discretion of the presider.

Are to be brief: no more than 3 or 4 minutes.

Are to be prepared in advance and given to the priest for review in advance.

Are limited to one person.

*It is important to us that the Funeral for your loved one is prayerful and a celebration of a life well lived and guided by his/her faith.*

#### ♦ Church Visitation

You are welcome to have up to **two hours of visitation** time at our church sites on the day of the funeral. In order to respect the sanctity of the church proper, visitation takes place in the gathering space, with the exception of St. Peter where there is no gathering space and will take place in church.

#### ♦ Funeral Luncheon

If you wish to have a funeral lunch at a Holy Family facility, the most convenient and accessible space is at Holy Family. Holy Family Hall seats 300+ comfortably and is handicap accessible. St. Peter Hall is available and has a lift for those who cannot manage stairs. There is no additional fee involved.

### Memorial Bequests

*As you begin to plan your loved one's funeral, please know that many of your guests will be generous to you, allowing you to be generous in the name of your loved one as well.*

*Please consider Holy Family Catholic Community as the requested charity to receive offerings given in memory of the deceased. Please know that we will send the donor a thank you letter for the donation, which includes a tax deduction statement. If requested we will also send you, the family of the deceased, a listing of any donations given in memory of your loved one.*

*These gifts certainly help the ministries and projects of our parish, and you, as the family, have the peace of mind knowing that donations are being given for the good of Holy Family Catholic Community. We are also honored to list all those who have had gifts given in memory of them in the Annual Report of Gifts each year.*

*For more information, please contact Michelle Ludtke, Director of Parish Operations for Holy Family Catholic Community, at the Parish Office at (920) 921-0580; or by email at [michellel@hffdl.org](mailto:michellel@hffdl.org). Michelle will be happy to personally meet with you and help you select an area of ministry or a specific project to allocate memorial donations. Please know that you and your loved one are in our prayers during this difficult time.*

# Old Testament Readings

**2 Maccabees 12:43-46** *He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.*

Judas, the ruler of Israel, took up a collection among his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

**Job 19:1, 23-27a** *I know that my Vindicator lives.*

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him; And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

## Advent

Comfort, Comfort, O My People  
Creator of the Stars of Night  
Like A Shepherd  
Lo, How A Rose  
My Soul In Stillness Waits  
Now In This Banquet  
O Come Divine Messiah  
O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
On Jordan's Bank  
People Look East  
Soon and Very Soon  
The King Of Glory

## Christmas

Angels We Have Heard On High  
Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
Away In A Manger  
Go, Tell It On the Mountain  
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
Joy To the World  
Lo, How A Rose  
O Come, All Ye Faithful  
O Little Town Of Bethlehem  
Silent Night  
The First Noel  
What Child Is This

## Lent

Ashes  
Change Our Hearts  
Come to the Water  
Deep Within  
Dust and Ashes  
Hosea  
Jerusalem My Destiny  
Jesus, Remember Me  
Lift High the Cross  
Only This I Want  
Remember Your Love  
Tree of Life

## Easter

Alleluia Sing to Jesus  
At the Lamb's High Feast  
Be Joyful, Mary  
Christ the Lord is Risen Today  
In the Breaking of the Bread  
Jesus Christ is Risen Today  
O Sons and Daughters  
O Sons and Daughters  
The Strife is O'er

## Music Selections

Please select 4 hymns from the following list. These will be used during 4 times when we encourage congregational singing during the Funeral Mass: The Entrance Procession, Offertory Procession, Communion Procession and the Closing Procession. If there is a particular song you wish to include and do not see it on this list, please let us know. (Songs for the Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter Seasons are on the next page.)

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus	Peace is Flowing Like a River
Amazing Grace	Precious Lord Take My Hand
Ave Maria	Shelter Me O God
Be Not Afraid	Sing a New Song
Blest are They	Sing to the Mountains
Blest Be the Lord	Sing With All the Saints in Glory
Eat This Bread	Soon and Very Soon
Eye Has Not Seen	Taste and See
God of Day, God of Darkness	The Hand of God Shall Hold You
Hail Mary. Gentle Woman	The King of Love My Shepherd is
Here I am Lord	The Servant Song
Holy, Holy, Holy	Though the Mountains May Fall
Hosea	We Have Been Told
How Great Thou Art	We Remember
I am the Bread of Life	We Shall Rise Again
I Danced in the Morning	We Walk By Faith
I Have Loved You	You Are Mine
Jerusalem, My Destiny	You are Near
Jesus, Remember Me	
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace	
On Eagle's Wings	

**Wisdom 3:1-9** *As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

**Wisdom 4: 7-10, 13-15** *On early death*

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported. Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the LORD, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

**Isaiah 25:6-9** *He will destroy death forever*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations. He will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God; to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord to whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

**Lamentations 3:17-26** *It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.*

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the LORD. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; Remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: The favors of the LORD are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the LORD, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Good is the LORD to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

**Intercessions**

In baptism, \_\_\_\_\_ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death, we pray to the Lord.

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God, we pray to the Lord.

The family and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief, we pray to the Lord.

For unity among all Christian people, so that we may build the Kingdom of God in our communities with a shared faith, hope and love, we pray to the Lord.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness, we pray to the Lord.

That one day all of us here will enjoy glorious new life in the company of \_\_\_\_\_, and all the saints, we pray to the Lord.

**John 14:1-6**     *There are many rooms in my Father's house.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**John 17:24-26**     *I wish that where I am they also may be with me.*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:  
"Father, those whom you gave me are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.  
Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.

**Daniel 12:1-3**     *Many of those who sleep in dust of the earth shall awake.*

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and heard this word of the Lord: At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of you people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; Some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

**Micah 6:8**     *Do right, love justice and walk humbly with God.*

You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.

**During the Easter season one of the following readings may be used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament**

**Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36,42-43** *He is the one appointed by God as the judge of the living and dead*

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "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 children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

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.

**John 11:17-27** *I am the resurrection and the life.*

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

**John 12:23-28** *If it dies, it produces much fruit.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."



**John 6:37-40**      *Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.*

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

**John 6:51-59**      *Those who eat this Bread will live forever.*

Jesus said to the crowds: I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

**Revelation 14:13**      *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord*

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

**Revelation 20:11-21:1**      *The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and the scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away and the sea was no more.

## New Testament Readings

**Romans 5:5-11** *Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.*

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation

**Mark 15:33-39** *Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last*

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

**Luke 12:35-40** *You also must be prepared.*

Jesus said to his disciples:  
"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who wait their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You must also be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

**Matthew 25:31-46**  
*blessed by my Father.*

*Come, you who are*

Jesus said to his disciples:  
"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' "

**Romans 5:17-21** *Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more*

Brothers and sisters: If, by the transgression of one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 6: 3-9** *We too might live in newness of life.*

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

**Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39** *What will separate us from the love of Christ?*

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 14: 7-9, 10c-12** *Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, who do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

**Matthew 11:25-30** *Come to Me, and I will give you rest.*

At that time Jesus answered,  
"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

## Gospel Readings

**Matthew 5:1-12** *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-23** *So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.*

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ

**1 Corinthians 15:20-28** *So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.*

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**     *Hope for the Christian dead*

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

**Philippians 3:20-21**     *He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.*

Brothers and sisters:  
Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

**2 Timothy 2:8-13**     *If we have died with him we shall live with him.*

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains unfaithful, for he cannot deny himself.

**1 John 3:1-2**     *We shall see him as he is.*

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

**1 John 3:14-16**     *We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.*

Beloved: We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.  
The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us: so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.