**FOR GENERAL USE IN SERVICES OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

*Words of Grace and Sentences*

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?                  (PSALM 27:1, UMH 758)

Blessed be the Lord,  
   who has heard the voice of my supplications!  
The Lord is my strength and shield,  
   in whom my heart trusts.                  (PSALM 28:6–7a,  UMH 760)

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
   slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
As a father shows compassion to his children,  
   so the Lord shows compassion to the faithful.  
For the Lord knows our frame, and remembers that we are dust.  
The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting  
   upon the faithful,  
and the righteousness of the Lord to children's children.                   (PSALM 103:8, 13–14, 17, UMH 824)

*Prayers*

O Jesus Christ our risen Lord, you have gone before us in death.  
Grant us the assurance of your presence,  
   that we who are anxious and fearful in the face of death  
      may confidently face the future,  
in the knowledge that you have prepared a place for all who love you. **Amen.**

O God, giver of life and conqueror of death,  
   our help in every time of trouble,  
we trust that you do not willingly grieve or afflict us.  
Comfort us who mourn;  
   and give us grace, in the presence of death, to worship you,  
that we may have sure hope of eternal life  
   and be enabled to put our whole trust in your goodness and mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, our Father, from whom we come,  
   and to whom our spirits return:  
You have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Grant us your blessing in this hour,  
   and enable us so to put our trust in you  
   that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted.  
Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth,  
   and help us to see the light of eternity.  
So may we find grace and strength for this and every time of need;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Scripture Readings*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Genesis 15:15 | Abraham's death |
| Genesis 49:1, 29–33; 50:1–2, 12–14 | Jacob's death and Joseph's response |
| Exodus 15 (UMH 135) | Canticle of Moses and Miriam |
| Joshua 3:14 –4:7 | Crossing over Jordan |
| Job 1:21 | Job's faith |
| Job 14:1 –12a | We are of few days. |
| Job 19:25 –27 | My Redeemer lives. |
| Proverbs 31:10 –13, 19–20, 30–31 | A good woman |
| Isaiah 25:1, 6–9 | God will swallow up death. |
| Isaiah 26:1 –4, 19 | Your dead shall live. |
| Isaiah 35:1 –6, 10 | Zion restored |
| Isaiah 41:8 –10, 13 | Do not fear. |
| Isaiah 57:14 –19 | Poem of consolation |
| Isaiah 61:1 –4, 10–11 | The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. |
| Isaiah 66:10 –13 | As a mother comforts, so does God. |
| Ezekiel 34:11 –16 | Shepherd of Israel |
| Ezekiel 37:1 –14, 21–28 | These bones can live. |
| Micah 6:6 –8 | What does the Lord require? |
| Zephaniah 3:16 –20 | Restoration of Israel |
| Psalm 27 (UMH 758) | Devotion and deliverance |
| Psalm 34 (UMH 769) | Thanksgiving for deliverance |
| Psalm 40 (UMH 774) | Thanksgiving for deliverance |
| Psalm 71 (UMH 794) | Deliverance from evil |
| Psalm 77 (UMH 798) | Deliverance from trouble |
| Psalm 84 (UMH 804) | How lovely is your dwelling place. |
| Psalm 118 (UMH 839) | Thanksgiving for deliverance |
| Psalm 126 (UMH 847) | Prayer for deliverance |
| Psalm 143 (UMH 856) | Prayer for deliverance |
| Acts 10:34 –43 | Peter's sermon on Jesus' resurrection |
| Romans 5:1 –11, 17–21 | Peace with God through faith |
| Romans 6:3 –11 | Dying and rising with Christ |
| Romans 14:7 –9 | Christ, Lord of the dead and the living |
| 2 Corinthians 5:1 –11a, 14–20 | Away from the body, at home in the Lord |
| Ephesians 3:14 –21 | Bow before God; know the love of Christ. |
| Philippians 3:7 –21 | The power of Christ's resurrection |
| Colossians 3:1 –17 | Raised with Christ |
| 1 Thessalonians 4:13 –5:11 | Concerning those who sleep |
| 2 Timothy 4:6 –8, 17–18 | I have fought the good fight. |
| Hebrews 11–12 | The saints of God |
| 1 John 3:1 –3 | We shall be like God. |
| Revelation 14:1 –3, 6–7, 12–13 | Blessed are the dead in the Lord. |
| Matthew 5:1 –12 | The Beatitudes |
| Matthew 6:19 –21 | Do not lay up treasures on earth. |
| Matthew 11:25 –30 | Come to me all who labor. |
| Matthew 25:31 –46 | As you did it to one of the least |
| Matthew 28:1 –10, 16–20 | Jesus' resurrection: Go make disciples. |
| Mark 16:1 –8 | The open tomb: Jesus goes before you. |
| Luke 1:67 –75 (UMH 208) | Canticle of Zechariah |
| Luke 12:22 –40 | Do not be anxious; be ready. |
| Luke 24:1 –12 | The empty tomb |
| John 3:13 –17 | God's gift of eternal life |
| John 5:19 –29 | Whoever hears and believes has life. |
| John 6:30 –40, 47–51 | Jesus the bread of life |
| John 10:1 –18, 27–30 | Jesus the Good Shepherd |
| John 12:20 –36 | Unless a grain of wheat dies |
| John 15:1 –17 | The vine and the branches |
| John 16:12 –22, 33 | Sorrow becomes joy. |
| John 20 | Jesus' resurrection |

*Suggested Hymns from UMH*

*See hymns 700–707 Death and Eternal Life and 708–712 Communion of the Saints. Also see suggestions under Eternal Life and Funerals and Memorial Services in UMH and the following:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 163  Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know | 143  On Eagle's Wings |
| 557  Blest Be the Tie That Binds | 733  Marching to Zion |
| 141  Children of the Heavenly Father | 368  My Hope Is Built |
| 318  Christ Is Alive | 356  Pues Si Vivimos (When We Are Living) |
| 407  Close to Thee | 66  Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (stanzas 3, 4) |
| 709  Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above | 491  Remember Me |
| 510  Come, Ye Disconsolate | 523  Saranam, Saranam (Refuge) |
| 315  Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain | 666  Shalom to You |
| 710  Faith of Our Fathers | 512  Stand By Me |
| 129  Give to the Winds Thy Fears | 704  Steal Away to Jesus |
| 654  How Blest Are They (for an older adult) | 496  Sweet Hour of Prayer |
| 77 How Great Thou Art | 703  Swing Low, Sweet Chariot |
| 103  Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise | 395  Take Time to Be Holy |
| 314  In the Garden | 545  The Church's One Foundation (stanzas 1, 5) |
| 488  Jesus, Remember Me | 546  The Church's One Foundation (stanzas 1, 5) |
| 133  Leaning on the Everlasting Arms | 303  The Day of Resurrection |
| 59  Mil Voces Para Celebrar | 116  The God of Abraham Praise |
| 520  Nobody Knows the Trouble I See | 504  The Old Rugged Cross |
| 57  O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing | 308  Thine Be the Glory |
| 480  O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go | 383  This Is a Day of New Beginnings |
| 247  O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (stanza 3) | 153  Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose |
| 518   O Thou, in Whose Presence | 322  Up from the Grave He Arose |
| 184   Of the Father's Love Begotten | 526  What a Friend We Have in Jesus |

*See also:*

Beloved, Now We Are the Saints of God (*UMBOW* 219).

**Copyright**: “For General Use in Services of Death and Resurrection,” Copyright © 1964, 1965 Board of Publication of The Methodist Church, Inc. Renewal Copyright © 1992 UMPH.