



Words of Encouragement Class 3: In Times of Grief, Loss, and Death

Scripture Verses

- Psalm 23* – “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely 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 61:1-4* – “Hear my cry, O God, and listen to my prayer. I call upon you from the ends of the earth with heaviness in my heart; set me upon the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy. I will dwell in your house for ever; I will take refuge under the cover of your wings.”
- Psalm 139:1-3, 10-12* – **“LORD, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether. If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”**
- Proverbs 3:5-6* – **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”**
- Jeremiah 29:11* – “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
- Mark 10:27* – “Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.””
- John 14:1-6* – “Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In 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? And 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, 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 16:22* – **“Jesus said, “So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”**
- Romans 15:13* – “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18* – **“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.”**
- Philippians 1:6* – “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”

Suggested Liturgies: Litany for Time of Death – BCP 462-464

Prayers

For the Dying

Blessed Jesus, in your last agony you commended your spirit to your Father. We seek your mercy for N., and all who are dying. May death become for them, as it was for you, a birth to everlasting life. Receive those whom we commend to you with the blessed assurance that whether we wake or sleep, we remain with you, one God, for ever. Amen. (EOW2 65)

For the Dying

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord: Receive our *brother N.* into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place. Let *his* heart and soul now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 466)

For Those Who Mourn

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus: look with compassion on all who are bound by sorrow and pain through the death of N. Comfort them, grant them the conviction that all things work together for good to those who love you, and help them to find sure trust and confidence in your resurrection power; through Jesus Christ our deliverer. Amen. (EOW2 65-66)

For Those Who Mourn

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 505)

For a Death

God, as Mary stood at the foot of the cross, we come before you with broken hearts and tearful eyes. Keep us mindful that you know our pain, and free us to see your resurrection power already at work in N.'s life. In your time, raise us from our grief as you are raising N. to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (EOW2 97)

For Loss of Pregnancy

O God, who gathered Rachel's tears over her lost children, hear now *my/our* sorrow and distress at the death of *my/our* expected child; in the darkness of loss, stretch out to *me/us* the strength of your arm and renewed assurance of your love; through your own suffering and risen Child Jesus. Amen. (EOW2 78)

For One who Fears Losing Hope

Loving God, by your Holy Spirit inspire me, as I fear losing hope. Give me a fresh vision of your love, that I may find again what I fear I have lost. Grant me your powerful deliverance; through the One who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen. (EOW2 75-76)

In Times of Shock or For a Sudden Death

O God our strength in need, our help in trouble: stand with us in our distress, support us in our shock, bless us in our questioning, and do not leave us comfortless, but raise us up with Jesus Christ. Amen. (EOW2 97)