

The Order for the Burial of the Dead

¶ Here is to be noted, That this Office is appropriate to be used only for the faithful departed in Christ, provided that in any other case the Minister may, at his discretion, use such part of this Office, or such devotions taken from other parts of this Book, as may be fitting.

¶ The Minister, meeting the Body and going before it, either into the church, or towards the grave, shall say or sing one or more of the following Sentences.

I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. *St. John 11:25, 26*

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though this body be destroyed, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

Job 19:25, 26, 27

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6:7; Job 1:21

He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. *St. John 5:24*

I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. *2 Timothy 1:12*

¶ After they are come into the church may be sung a Hymn. Then shall be said one or more of the following selections, taken from

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the Psalms. The *Gloria Patri* may be omitted except at the end of the whole portion or selection from the Psalter.

Dominus illuminatio. from Psalm 27

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?

One thing have I desired of the LORD, which I will require; * even that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the LORD, and to visit his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle; * yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

And now shall he lift up my head * above mine enemies round about me.

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation, with great gladness: * I will sing and speak praises unto the LORD.

Hearken unto my voice, O LORD, when I cry unto thee; * have mercy upon me, and hear me.

My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face: * Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

O hide not thou thy face from me, * nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

Thou hast been my succour; * leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

I should utterly have fainted, * but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

O tarry thou the LORD'S leisure; * be strong, and he shall comfort thy heart; and put thou thy trust in the LORD.

Dixi, custodiam. from Psalm 39

LORD, let me know mine end, and the number of my days: * that I may be certified how long I have to live.

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Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long: and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee; * and verily every man living is altogether vanity.

For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain: * he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.

And now, Lord, what is my hope? * truly my hope is even in thee.

Deliver me from all mine offences; * and make me not a rebuke unto the foolish.

When thou with rebukes dost chasten man for sin, thou makest his beauty to consume away, like as it were a moth fretting a garment: * every man therefore is but vanity.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears consider my calling: * hold not thy peace at my tears.

For I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, * as all my fathers were.

O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength, * before I go hence, and be no more seen.

Deus noster refugium. from Psalm 46

GOD is our hope and strength, * a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, * and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof rage and swell, * and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.

There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God; * the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest.

God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed; * God shall help her, and that right early.

Be still then, and know that I am God: * I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us; * the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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Domine, refugium. from Psalm 90

LORD, thou hast been our refuge: * from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made: * thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

Thou turnest man to destruction: * again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday, when it is past; * and as a watch in the night.

As soon as thou scatterest them, they are even as a sleep: * and fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green, and groweth up: * but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.

For we consume away in thy displeasure, * and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.

Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee: * and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

For when thou art angry, all our days are gone: * we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.

The days of our age are threescore years and ten; and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years: * yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow; so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.

But who regardeth the power of thy wrath? * or feareth aright thine indignation?

So teach us to number our days: * that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Dilexi, quoniam. from Psalm 116

MY delight is in the LORD; * because he hath heard the voice of my prayer;

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me; * therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

The snares of death compassed me round about, * and the pains of hell gat hold upon me.

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I found trouble and heaviness; then called I upon the Name of the LORD; * O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; * yea, our God is merciful.

The LORD preserveth the simple: * I was in misery, and he helped me.

Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul; * for the LORD hath rewarded thee.

And why? thou hast delivered my soul from death, * mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the LORD * in the land of the living.

I will receive the cup of salvation, * and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people: * right dear in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

De profundis. Psalm 130

OUT of the deep have I called unto thee, O LORD; * Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well * the voice of my complaint.

If thou, LORD, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, * O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee; * therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the LORD; my soul doth wait for him; * in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; * I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy, * and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel * from all his sins.

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Dominus regit me. 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.

Benedic, anima mea. from Psalm 103

YEA, like as a father pitieth his own children; * even so is the LORD merciful unto them that fear him.

For he knoweth whereof we are made; * he remembereth that we are but dust.

The days of man are but as grass; * for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.

For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone; * and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the LORD endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him; * and his righteousness upon children's children;

Even upon such as keep his covenant, * and think upon his commandments to do them.

Levavi oculos. Psalm 121

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills; * from whence cometh my help?

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My help cometh even from the LORD, * who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; * and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel * shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD himself is thy keeper; * the LORD is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, * neither the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil; * yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, * from this time forth for evermore.

¶ Then shall follow the Lesson, taken out of the fifteenth chapter of the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. But the Minister, at his discretion, may select other suitable portions of Scripture (Isaiah 25:6-9; Isaiah 61:1-3; Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33; Job 19:21-27a).

From 1 Corinthians 15

NOW is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's, at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule, and all authority, and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up?

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and with what body do they come? Thou foolish one, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: but God giveth it a body, as it hath pleased him, and to every seed its own body. So also is the resurrection of the dead: It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality; then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

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¶ Or this.

From **Romans 8**

THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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¶ Or this.

From **St. John 14**

JESUS said, Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

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From **St. Matthew 18**

AT the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my Name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

¶ Here may be sung a Hymn or an Anthem; and, at the discretion of the Minister, here may be also the Creed and a Sermon; then, the Prayers following, the Minister first pronouncing,

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The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Minister. Let us pray.

¶ Then, all kneeling, shall be said the Lord's Prayer, and one or more of the Prayers following.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O GOD, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered; Make us, we beseech thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let thy Holy Spirit lead us through this vale of misery, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives: That, when we shall have served thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of thy Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious, and holy hope; in favour with thee our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

MOST merciful Father, who hast been pleased to take unto thyself the soul of this thy servant (*or* this thy child); Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that having served thee with constancy on earth, we may be joined hereafter with thy blessed saints in glory everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

REMEMBER thy servants, O Lord, according to the favour which thou bearest unto thy people, and grant that we, together with those who rest in thee, shall increase in knowledge and love of thee, and go from strength to

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strength in the life of perfect service, in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

For Those Bereaved

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, the Consolation of the sorrowful, and the Support of the weary, who dost not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men; Look down in tender love and pity, we beseech thee, upon thy bereaved servants, whose joy is turned into mourning; So that, while they mourn, they may not murmur, or faint under thy chastening hand; but, remembering all thy mercies, thy promises, and thy love in Christ, may resign themselves meekly into thy hands, to be taught and comforted by thee, who bringest life out of death, and who canst turn their grief into eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O LORD, our God, who art the disposer of human events, in whom we live and move and have our being; We beseech thee to grant us that sense of thy presence, which will enable us to see that thy wisdom and love are involved in this dispensation of thy Providence. May we remember that thou art all wise and canst not make a mistake; that thou art also all love and canst not be cruel to any of thy children. Help us to believe that all things are working together for our good, and that what we know not now, we shall hereafter fully know and understand. Sanctify to us this ordering of thy Providence. Comfort and uphold thy servants in this hour of their sorrow. Impart to them thy sufficient and sustaining grace, distilling in every wounded heart the solace of thy Holy Spirit; And when thy summons shall come to us, vouchsafe, O Lord, that, having trusted in the atoning work of thine only-begotten Son, our Saviour, we may be received into thy presence, where there is fullness of joy for evermore; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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Thanksgiving and Prayer for Grace

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we yield unto thee most high praise and hearty thanks, for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all thy saints, who have been the choice vessels of thy grace, and the lights of the world in their several generations; most humbly beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow the example of their steadfastness in thy faith, and obedience to thy holy commandments, that at the day of the general Resurrection, we, with all those who are of the mystical body of thy Son, may be set on his right hand, and hear that his most joyful voice: Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Grant this, O Father, for the sake of the same thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

For the Burial of a Child

O GOD, whose most dear Son did take little children into his arms and bless them; Give us grace, we beseech thee, to entrust this dear child to thy never-failing care and love; and bring us all to thy heavenly kingdom; through the same thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O MERCIFUL Father, whose face the angels of thy little ones do always behold in heaven; Grant us steadfastly to believe that this thy child hath been taken into the safe keeping of thine eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY and merciful Father, who dost grant to children an abundant entrance into thy kingdom; Grant us grace so to conform our lives to their innocency and perfect faith, that at length, united with them, we may stand in thy presence in fullness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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¶ Inasmuch as it may sometimes be expedient to say under shelter of the church the whole or a part of the service appointed to be said at the grave, the Grace shall here be omitted.

2 Corinthians 13:14

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

AT THE GRAVE

¶ When they come to the grave, while the Body is made ready to be laid into the earth, the Minister shall say or sing one or more of the Sentences following.

MAN, that is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee.

¶ Or this.

ALL that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory. Ye now have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

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IF the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

¶ Then, while the earth shall be cast upon the Body, the Minister shall say,

FORASMUCH as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of our dear *brother* (or this beloved child), here departed, we therefore commit *his* body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed, and made like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

¶ When this Office is used at Sea, for the words, *commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust*; substitute, *commit his body to the deep*.

¶ Then shall be said or sung,

I HEARD a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours.

¶ Or, at the burial of a child, the Minister may say,

JESUS called them unto him and said, Let the little children come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

¶ Then the Minister shall say,

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The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Minister. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

¶ Then the Minister shall say one or more of the following Prayers, at his discretion, and may add other Prayers, ending with the Blessing.

ALMIGHTY God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity; We give thee hearty thanks, for that it hath pleased thee to deliver this our *brother* out of the miseries of this sinful world; beseeching thee that it may please thee, of thy gracious goodness, shortly to accomplish the number of thine elect, and to hasten thy kingdom; that we, with all those who are departed in the true faith of thy holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thine eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OMERCIFUL God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life; in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die; and whosoever liveth, and believeth in him, shall not die eternally; who also hath taught us, by his holy Apostle Saint Paul, not to be sorry, as men without hope, for those who sleep in him: We

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humbly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that, when we shall depart this life, we may rest in him; and that, at the general Resurrection in the last day, we may be found acceptable in thy sight; and receive that blessing, which thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all who love and fear thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world: Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. *Amen.*

O LORD Jesus Christ, who by thy death didst take away the sting of death; Grant unto us thy servants so to follow in faith where thou hast led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in thee, and awake up after thy likeness; through thy mercy, who livest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Hebrews 13:20, 21

THE God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant; Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*