

For Confident Hope

Victorious and triumphant Lord Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, I turn to You for assurance and hope in this sad hour. I have lost one whose life was entwined with my own and whose love was precious to me. This has grieved me deeply. O Lord, let not the hour of sorrow bring a feeling of resentment toward You or sweep away my confidence in Your abiding love. Grant the certainty that death does not have the final word, but has met its conqueror in You. Let me rejoice in the confident hope that my loved one has gained victory through Your resurrection. Roll away the clouds that surround me so the light of hope may again shine brightly on my path. Let me walk in confidence and faith until the glorious day of our resurrection when those I love and I will be reunited with You in heaven. I praise and glorify You forever and ever. Amen

Strength from God's Word

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep."

1 Thessalonians 4:13–14

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 forever (KJV).



CONCORDIA TRACTS

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Prayers in Bereavement

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For Strength

Dear heavenly Father, my loved one is gone. The burden of grief is heavy upon me, and my strength is gone. It seems more than I can bear. Do not allow me, I pray, to be crushed altogether. Do not permit Satan to exploit my weakness by undermining my faith and shaking my trust in You. Keep me from rebelling or complaining against You. Almighty God, the source of all might and power, You have promised sufficient strength for each day. Help me to stand fast. Sustain me with Your blessed Word and the blessed Sacrament so I do not grow weary and collapse. Hold me so I have the endurance to meet the heavy demands of this time and to adjust to changes in my life brought on by this loss. In Jesus my Savior's name I pray. Amen.

For Comfort

Dear Lord Jesus, because You endured such sorrow and grief during Your earthly life, I know You understand my heartache and anguish. My friends have comforted me in my bereavement, and their kind words and deeds have heartened me, but I need and desire Your divine comfort above all else. Having wept at the grave of Your dear friend Lazarus, You also understand the tears that I have shed for my loved one. By Your gentle Word You comforted Mary and Martha. By Your mighty Word You called Lazarus forth from the grave. Lord, send me Your Word. Let the assurance of Your constant care and

steadfast love wipe the tears from my eyes. Because You died to provide eternal life for those who believe, I know my loved one has been set free from all weeping, sorrow, and pain. Fortify my belief that my loved one, who has been born again in You, now basks in the fullness of joy in Your presence. In Your name I pray. Amen.

For Understanding

O God of wisdom and knowledge, Your ways may seem mysterious and baffling because they are beyond my understanding. This is especially true as my eyes are filled with tears of grief and my vision is dimmed by sorrow. Enlighten my understanding, O Lord. Guide me to fully believe that Your ways are always good because they lead us heavenward. Do not let me forget Your love for all Your children here on earth. How thankful I am that You made me Your own through Baptism and gave me faith through Your Holy Spirit! Help me remember that dawn comes even after the darkest night. Morning is sure to come again to dispel the turmoil in my heart and bring me peace through trust in Your abiding love. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

For Courage

Dear heavenly Father, with the prophet of old I confess: "My sighs are many, and my heart is faint" (Lamentations 1:22 KJV). In the midst of the problems that confront me and the trials and difficulties that I now face, my courage is faltering. Where can I find courage again for the days ahead, except with You, O Lord? Human help and

wisdom are not enough. But Your loving heart reaches out in compassion to Your children who sorrow and are in need. You revive my spirit and refresh my courage. Help me remember Your promise to give power to the faint and strength to those who have no might. Give me patience and endurance to run the course that You have set before me, and help me to find courage in the knowledge that You hold my past, my present, and my future safely in Your almighty hands. Grant this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

For God's Presence

O Lord Jesus Christ, how greatly I need Your strong and sure hand to cling to in my distress! Hold me firmly and securely and let me rely on Your nearness, love, care, and concern for me in my sorrow. Keep me from despondency and despair. Shower me with Your help and Your mercy. Reach out Your hand and guide me through these shadows, and graciously lead me on paths of love and kindness back to a brighter and better day. And if I should falter in my faith and my trust in You and Your redeeming love, do not reject or forsake me in my weakness, but support me and lift me up again. Trusting in Your love and mercy, I pray. Amen.