



*Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder
the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding
of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Isaiah 43.16–21

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a
wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not
perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, •
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter •
and our tongue with songs of joy.

Then said they among the nations, •
'The Lord has done great things for them.'

The Lord has indeed done great things for us, •
and therefore we rejoiced.

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, •
as the river beds of the desert.

Those who sow in tears •
shall reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, •
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them.



*Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him
who suffered on the cross
we may triumph
in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ
your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

Philippians 3.4b–14

I, too, have reason for confidence in the
flesh. If anyone else has reason to be
confident in the flesh, I have more:
circumcised on the eighth day, a member
of the people of Israel, of the tribe of
Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as
to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a
persecutor of the church; as to
righteousness under the law, blameless.
Yet whatever gains I had, these I have
come to regard as loss because of Christ.
More than that, I regard everything as loss
because of the surpassing value of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I
have suffered the loss of all things, and I
regard them as rubbish, in order that I may
gain Christ and be found in him, not having
a righteousness of my own that comes
from the law, but one that comes through
faith in Christ, the righteousness from God
based on faith. I want to know Christ and
the power of his resurrection and the
sharing of his sufferings by becoming like
him in his death, if somehow I may attain
the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or
have already reached the goal; but I press
on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus
has made me his own. Beloved, I do not
consider that I have made it my own; but
this one thing I do: forgetting what lies
behind and straining forward to what lies
ahead, I press on towards the goal for the
prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ
Jesus.

The Gospel of John 12.1–8

Six days before the Passover Jesus
came to Bethany, the home of
Lazarus, whom he had raised from
the dead. There they gave a dinner
for him. Martha served, and Lazarus
was one of those at the table with
him. Mary took a pound of costly
perfume made of pure nard, anointed
Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her
hair. The house was filled with the
fragrance of the perfume. But Judas
Ischariot, one of his disciples (the one
who was about to betray him), said,
'Why was this perfume not sold for
three hundred denarii and the money
given to the poor?' (He said this not
because he cared about the poor, but
because he was a thief; he kept the
common purse and used to steal
what was put into it.) Jesus said,
'Leave her alone. She bought it so
that she might keep it for the day of
my burial. You always have the poor
with you, but you do not always have
me.'

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least
of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will
to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign,
now and for ever.*