O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
Job 19:23-27a

Job said,

"O that my words were written down!
   O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
   they were engraved on a rock forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
   and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
   then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
   and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

Psalm 17:1-9

Exaudi, Domine

1 Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD;
   give heed to my cry; *
   listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying
   lips.
2 Let my vindication come forth from your presence; *
   let your eyes be fixed on justice.
3 Weigh my heart, summon me by night, *
   melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.
4 I give no offense with my mouth as others do; *
   I have heeded the words of your lips.
5 My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; *
   in your paths my feet shall not stumble.
6 I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; *
   incline your ear to me and hear my words.
7 Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, *
   O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
   from those who rise up against them.
8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; *
   hide me under the shadow of your wings,
9 From the wicked who assault me, *
   from my deadly enemies who surround me.

The Epistle

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being
gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not
to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by
word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day
of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any
way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes
first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for
destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-
called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the
temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not
remember that I told you these things when I was still with
you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and
sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the
first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit
and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you
through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may
obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers
and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you
were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and
good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every
good work and word.

The Gospel


Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came
to Jesus and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for
us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children,
the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his
brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and
died childless; then the second and the third married her, and
so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the
woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife
will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and
are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of
a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead
neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot
die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of
God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the
dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the
bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the
God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the
dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."