

## Anglican Covenant Scripture References (NRSV)

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### 1. Preamble

#### Psalm 127

A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon.

<sup>1</sup>Unless the LORD builds the house,  
those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the LORD guards the city,  
the guard keeps watch in vain.

<sup>2</sup>It is in vain that you rise up early  
and go late to rest,  
eating the bread of anxious toil;  
for he gives sleep to his beloved.

#### Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>37</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.' <sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

**Mark 1:1**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**John 10:10**

<sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

**Romans 5:1-5**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**Ephesians 4:1-16**

<sup>4</sup>I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup> But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

<sup>9</sup>(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**Revelation 2-3***The Message to Ephesus*

<sup>1</sup>'To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

<sup>2</sup> 'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. <sup>3</sup>I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup>But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

<sup>5</sup>Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. <sup>6</sup>Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup>Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

*The Message to Smyrna*

8 ‘And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life:

9 ‘I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup>Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

<sup>11</sup>Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.

*The Message to Pergamum*

12 ‘And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword:

13 ‘I know where you are living, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you are holding fast to my name, and you did not deny your faith in me even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan lives. <sup>14</sup>But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling-block before the people of Israel, so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and practise fornication. <sup>15</sup>So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup>Repent then. If not, I will come to you soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.

*The Message to Thyatira*

18 ‘And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze:

19 ‘I know your works—your love, faith, service, and patient endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first. <sup>20</sup>But I have this against you: you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet and is teaching and beguiling my servants to practise fornication and to eat food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup>I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her fornication. <sup>22</sup>Beware, I am throwing her on a bed, and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great distress, unless they repent of her doings; <sup>23</sup>and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. <sup>24</sup>But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call “the deep things of Satan”, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden; <sup>25</sup>only hold fast to what you have until I come. <sup>26</sup>To everyone who conquers and continues to do my works to the end, I will give authority over the nations;

<sup>27</sup>to rule them with an iron rod,  
as when clay pots are shattered—

<sup>28</sup>even as I also received authority from my Father. To the one who conquers I will also give the morning star. <sup>29</sup>Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*The Message to Sardis*

3 ‘And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars:

‘I know your works; you have a name for being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup>Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is at the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God.

<sup>3</sup>Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. <sup>4</sup>Yet you have still a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

<sup>5</sup>If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the

book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. <sup>6</sup>Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*The Message to Philadelphia*

<sup>7</sup> ‘And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David,  
who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens:

<sup>8</sup> ‘I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but are lying—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup>Because you have kept my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. <sup>11</sup>I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. <sup>12</sup>If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. <sup>13</sup>Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*The Message to Laodicea*

<sup>14</sup> ‘And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God’s creation:

<sup>15</sup> ‘I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>For you say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.” You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup>Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. <sup>19</sup>I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. <sup>20</sup>Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. <sup>21</sup>To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup>Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.’

## 2. The Life We Share

### **Deuteronomy 6:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. <sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. <sup>7</sup>Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

### **Leviticus 19:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup>You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

### **Amos 5:14-15, 24**

<sup>14</sup> Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup> Hate evil and love good,

and establish justice in the gate;  
 it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
 will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.  
<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,  
 and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

## **Matthew 25**

### *The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids*

<sup>25</sup>Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." <sup>12</sup>But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### *The Parable of the Talents*

<sup>14</sup>For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

### *The Judgement of the Nations*

<sup>31</sup>When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and

you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

### **Matthew 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

### **1 Corinthians 15:3-11**

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

### **Philippians 2:1-11**

<sup>2</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### **1 Timothy 3:15-16**

<sup>15</sup>if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. <sup>16</sup>Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great:

He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit,  
seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles,  
believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

### **Hebrews 13:1-17**

<sup>13</sup>Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. <sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’ <sup>6</sup>So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?’

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. <sup>9</sup>Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them. <sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who officiate in the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup>Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood.

<sup>13</sup>Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you.

## **3. Our commitment to confession of the faith**

### **Deuteronomy 30:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>13</sup>Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>14</sup>No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

### **Psalms 126**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then it was said among the nations,  
‘The LORD has done great things for them.’

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup>May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

### **Mark 10:26-27**

<sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

### **Luke 1:37, 46-55**

<sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.'

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

### **John 8:32**

<sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'

### **John 14:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' <sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after

supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

## **2 Timothy 3:10-4:5**

10 Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,<sup>11</sup> my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.<sup>13</sup> But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived.<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it,<sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.<sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you:<sup>2</sup> proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.<sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires,<sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.<sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

## **4. The life we share with others**

### **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.<sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.<sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### **Ezekiel 36:22-28**

22 Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.<sup>23</sup> I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes.<sup>24</sup> I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land.<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.<sup>26</sup> A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.<sup>27</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.<sup>28</sup> Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

**Matthew 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

**John 17:20-24**

<sup>20</sup> ‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

**2 Corinthians 8-9**

<sup>8</sup> We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; <sup>2</sup> for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup> For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, <sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— <sup>5</sup> and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, <sup>6</sup> so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. <sup>7</sup> Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

<sup>8</sup> I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. <sup>10</sup> And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— <sup>11</sup> now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. <sup>12</sup> For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup> I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between <sup>14</sup> your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. <sup>15</sup> As it is written,

‘The one who had much did not have too much,  
and the one who had little did not have too little.’

<sup>16</sup> But thanks be to God who put in the heart of Titus the same eagerness for you that I myself have. <sup>17</sup> For he not only accepted our appeal, but since he is more eager than ever, he is going to you of his own accord. <sup>18</sup> With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his proclaiming of the good news; <sup>19</sup> and not only that, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us while we are administering this generous undertaking for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our goodwill. <sup>20</sup> We intend that no one should blame us about this generous gift that we are administering, <sup>21</sup> for we intend to do what is right not only in the Lord’s sight but also in the sight of others. <sup>22</sup> And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found eager in many matters, but who is now more eager than ever because of his great confidence in you. <sup>23</sup> As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker in your service; as for our brothers, they are messengers of the

churches, the glory of Christ.<sup>24</sup> Therefore, openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.

<sup>9</sup> Now it is not necessary for me to write to you about the ministry to the saints,<sup>2</sup> for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them.<sup>3</sup> But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be;<sup>4</sup> otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking.<sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion.

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.<sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.<sup>8</sup> And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.<sup>9</sup> As it is written,

‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures for ever.’

<sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.<sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;<sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.<sup>13</sup> Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,<sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.<sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

### **Ephesians 2:11-3:21**

<sup>11</sup> So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.<sup>14</sup> For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.<sup>15</sup> He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace,<sup>16</sup> and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.<sup>17</sup> So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near;<sup>18</sup> for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,<sup>20</sup> built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.<sup>21</sup> In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;<sup>22</sup> in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

<sup>3</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you,<sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,<sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.<sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:<sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. <sup>13</sup>I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **James 1:22-27**

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

## **5. Our unity and common life**

### **Numbers 11:16-20**

<sup>16</sup>So the LORD said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. <sup>17</sup>I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. <sup>18</sup>And say to the people: Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wailed in the hearing of the LORD, saying, "If only we had meat to eat! Surely it was better for us in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. <sup>19</sup>You shall eat not only one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, <sup>20</sup>but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you—because you have rejected the LORD who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"'

### **Luke 22:14-27**

<sup>14</sup>When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup>He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup>for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' <sup>17</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup>for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine

until the kingdom of God comes.’<sup>19</sup> Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’<sup>20</sup> And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’<sup>21</sup> But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table.<sup>22</sup> For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!’<sup>23</sup> Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.<sup>25</sup> But he said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors.’<sup>26</sup> But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves.<sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

### **Acts 2:43-47**

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.<sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common;<sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.<sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,<sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### **Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.<sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.<sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.<sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread,<sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’<sup>25</sup> In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

### **1 Peter 4:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.<sup>8</sup> Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.<sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to one another without complaining.<sup>10</sup> Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.<sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### **1 Peter 5:1-11**

<sup>5</sup> Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you<sup>2</sup> to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly.<sup>3</sup> Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock.<sup>4</sup> And

when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. <sup>5</sup>In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for  
 ‘God opposes the proud,

but gives grace to the humble.’

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.

<sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

<sup>11</sup>To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

## 6. Unity of the Communion

### **Nehemiah 2:17,18**

<sup>17</sup>Then I said to them, ‘You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burnt. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.’ <sup>18</sup>I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, ‘Let us start building!’ So they committed themselves to the common good.

### **Matthew 18:15-18**

<sup>15</sup>‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

### **1Corinthians 12**

<sup>12</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Let Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

<sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

#### **One Body with Many Members**

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if

the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

## **2 Corinthians 4:1-18**

<sup>4</sup>Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup>But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>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.

## **2 Corinthians 13:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! <sup>6</sup>I hope you will find out that we have not failed. <sup>7</sup>But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong—not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. <sup>8</sup>For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. <sup>9</sup>For we rejoice when we are weak and you

are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. <sup>10</sup>So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

### **Galatians 6:1-10**

<sup>6</sup>My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup>All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbour's work, will become a cause for pride. <sup>5</sup>For all must carry their own loads.

<sup>6</sup> Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup>If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup>So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

## **7. Our declaration**

### **Psalm 46**

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

<sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

*Selah*

<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup>The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Selah*

<sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the LORD;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

<sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>'Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.'

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Selah*

<sup>18</sup>Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

<sup>19</sup>Blessed be his glorious name for ever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth.Amen and Amen.

### **Psalm 72:18-19**

<sup>18</sup>Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

<sup>19</sup>Blessed be his glorious name for ever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth.Amen and Amen.

### **Psalm 150**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty firmament!

<sup>2</sup>Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

<sup>3</sup>Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!

<sup>4</sup>Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!

<sup>5</sup>Praise him with clanging cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

<sup>6</sup>Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

### **Acts 10:34-44**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

### **2 Corinthians 13:13**

<sup>13</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

### **Jude 24-25**

<sup>24</sup> Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, <sup>25</sup>to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.