

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

I want to encourage you, as we gather this morning, to remember that God is our refuge and our strength. We are ever embraced in the arms of our everlasting Lord.

Listen to the words in 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. [2] He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. [3] He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. [4] Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. [5] Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup

overflows. [6] Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

This Psalm assures us that God is there for us to guide and lead us through times of trouble and hardship.

He is a friend that stays close to us...providing for us...and loving us.

-And even when we face those troubling days with hurts that are all too painful and real.

-Jesus promises that He is there for us, and all we need to do is turn to Him for refuge and strength.

-Then it shall be brought to pass that saying, which is written,

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Let us pray...

Almighty God, Fountain of life, you are our refuge. You are our strength.

You are also our help in times of trouble. Today is such a day that we need your help and strength.

Father in Heaven, it is from You whom we come, and unto You our spirits return.

You are our dwelling place. We place our trust in you.

Lift our eyes from the shadows of this earth and help us to see the light of eternity in You today.

Therefore, enable us to put our trust in You; so that we might obtain mercy and comfort in this time of grief.

Help us to find grace to help us in this time of need through Jesus Christ.

Lord, we thank you for _____ life and the impact she/he had on all of us. Thank you for the family and all our friends who have reach out with love, comfort, and help...

Please allow the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with your peace!

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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