TOPIC PRINTABLE

Grief and loss

Scripture for mourning: God's nearness to the brokenhearted, Jesus' own tears, and the Christian hope beyond death.

PSALM 34:18

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves those who have a crushed spirit.

The LORD is near those with a broken heart.

MATTHEW 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Jesus calls mourners blessed and promises comfort — mourning is not a lack of faith.

JOHN 11:35

Jesus wept.

Jesus wept at His friend's tomb, even knowing what He was about to do. Grief is not rebuked.

REVELATION 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more. The first things have passed away."

A vision of the end of sorrow: every tear wiped away, death no more.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–14

But we don't want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you don't grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

Paul does not tell grieving Christians not to grieve, but not to grieve "like the rest, who have no hope."

PSALM 147:3

He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds.

God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

WISDOM 3:1–3

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died. Their departure was considered a disaster, and their travel away from us ruin, but they are in peace.

The souls of the righteous are in God's hand — a passage often read at Catholic funerals.

ROMANS 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep.

Weep with those who weep: what Scripture asks of friends of the grieving.

JOHN 11:25–26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will still live, even if he dies. Whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Jesus' words to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life."