

Memorial Address Material

As I began to have several memorial/resurrection services as pastor of Glenview, I realized that some passages were appropriate to be used over and over, and also that I was perhaps over using some. So I started a collection of passages that could be a quick resource that included “typical” passages used at this time and other appropriate passages that are not as easily found – especially from the Sacred Scriptures.

Thinking that such a collection may be useful for others, I invited the Council of the Clergy to send me passages that could be included. These greatly expanded the collection and also made me aware that some limits would have to be placed on it or it would become unwieldy. From this I became somewhat selective, such as excluding non-canonical passages from the Old and New Testaments, and sorted the material into categories. But I will confess to having so much delight in collecting passages for a clergy memorial service that I just had to include some of them.

Due to collecting passages some time ago, the newer translations are not included. (Of course, newer is not necessarily better!) Also, there could still be errors in the text because most of the passages were collected before the days of NewSearch when I had to type them in.

I did try to make some adjustments to gender in some of the quotes from the Writings – attempting to minimize the times “man” is used.

Any collection of passages tends to be at least somewhat idiosyncratic in selection and organization. (Am I the only one who had a lot of memorial services of people who liked to garden, or were veterans?) Certain themes seemed to recur – both in what is typical subject matter for memorial services and in people’s lives. These seemed to drive the collection and selection process. I hope there is sufficient breadth that they are generally useful.

However, it would be useful to make judicious additions to this collection. If you have additional passages to suggest, or even new categories, please contact me and I would be happy to work with you on it.

One last point. I also found these passages very useful to have in hand when making hospital visits. Reading from the threefold Word is often appreciated – and the less I had to flip through the Psalms finding something that might be appropriate, the better!

Brian W. Keith
January 2003