

## A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

### JESUS GIVES YOU LIFE

John 5:25-26 “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself.”

As I write this devotion, Russian troops have invaded the Ukraine. With the invasion comes the daily reminder that with war there is death. The daily count of how many have been killed in the war grows. The daily news, with few exceptions, reports the latest murders (deaths) in your community along with deaths that occur from accidents. Those of you who still read the newspaper probably scan the obituary page to see if you know any of those listed there.

Death is a constant. Most times the deaths are of strangers. There are times, when death is personal. A close relative, neighbor, or someone with whom you work passes away. When the deceased died believing in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior from sin, then the following words of St. Paul give you comfort and peace: “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do 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. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

The most comforting voice you will ever hear is the voice of Jesus coming to take you to be with Him. You have His promise, “I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:3)

Prayer: Come dear Jesus quickly for I am waiting and I know that I will not be disappointed. Amen.

For me to live is Jesus, To die is gain for me;  
So when my Savior pleases I meet death willingly.

For Christ, my Lord, my brother, I leave this world so dim  
And gladly seek another, Where I shall be with Him.

My woes are nearly over, Though long and dark the road;  
My sin His merits cover, And I have peace with God.

Lord, when my pow'rs are failing, My breath comes heavily,  
And words are unavailing, O hear my sighs to Thee.

In my last hours, O grant me A slumber soft and still,  
No doubts to vex or haunt me, Safe anchored in Thy will;

And so to Thee still cleaving When death shall come to me,  
I fall asleep believing And wake in heav'n with Thee!  
(LSB 742)