

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>THE FORMAT OF THESE STUDIES</u>	2
<u>THE CHURCH AND ITS PRESENT PRIVILEGE</u>	3
STUDY 1 – HEBREWS 12:18-24	3
<u>THE CHURCH AND ITS ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP</u>	6
STUDY 2 – HEBREWS 12:28 – 13:16	6
<u>THE CHURCH AND ITS CHOSEN MARKS</u>	9
STUDY 3 – 1 PETER 2:1-12	9
<u>THE CHURCH IS ONE HOUSE</u>	12
STUDY 4 – EPHESIANS 2:18-22	12
<u>THE CHURCH IS ONE FLOCK</u>	15
STUDY 5 – ACTS 20:25-35	15
<u>THE CHURCH IS ONE BODY</u>	18
STUDY 6 – EPHESIANS 4:1-16	18
<u>THE CHURCH AND ITS BODY LIFE</u>	21
STUDY 7 – 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31	21
<u>THE CHURCH AND ITS GROWTH</u>	24
STUDY 8 – 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1-26	24
<u>THE CHURCH AND ITS FELLOWSHIP</u>	27
STUDY 9 – 1 JOHN 1:3-10	27
<u>THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION</u>	30
STUDY 10 – MATTHEW 28:16-20	30
<u>THE CHURCH AND ITS DESTINY</u>	33
STUDY 11 – REVELATION 21:1-4 AND 9-27	33

THE FORMAT OF THESE STUDIES

As stated in the introduction letter, these studies follow a pattern, with the first four questions being much the same in each study. These questions are meant to help us really get into the details of the text: noticing the words, the context and the structure particularly.

Here is a little more information to hopefully help our understanding of what the questions are asking us to do.

1. What is meant by ‘line by line’? Here’s an example from the first study...the first couple of verses of Hebrews 12:18-24.

*18 For you have not come to what may be touched,
a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest
19 and the sound of a trumpet*

and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

2. Look carefully at the words! Underline/circle/box or highlight (different colours may help) the words that are unclear, repeated or very important. Notice:

- words or phrases that are repetitions, or repetitions of ideas
- words connecting ideas: like “therefore”, “so that”, “because”, “for”.
- contrasting words or phrases: “but”, “or”
- key ideas
- big Bible words (eg. Salvation, redemption, atonement, OT references, Passover)
- commands
- tone and feel: emotive words, poetic words, images
- things you don’t understand or surprises

3. Understand the text in its setting...the Context.

Establish what came before, what follows, and how the text fits into the book as a whole. Note immediate context, the context of the book.

4. Structure: (some of our texts are quite small and part of a larger passage, so there won’t always be an obvious structure in some of these texts). Here’s a starting place though... Look for ways to group together common ideas. Look for the natural breaks or sections. Look for patterns or the use of ‘connecting’ words. Look for repetition in words or ideas. Break the text into its sections, giving verse references. Try to give each section a heading.

Different genres: The majority of these studies are from letters to churches (epistles). In epistles, for clues of how to follow the logic of the author look at the grammar, especially the verbs, and the ‘connecting’ words.

Narrative: such as Acts that is historical narrative, a simple way is to break it into scenes.

In longer passages the structure will usually reveal an emphasis that the author is intending...try and see what that emphasis is.

THE CHURCH AND ITS PRESENT PRIVILEGE

Study 1 – Hebrews 12:18-24

The original hearers of this letter faced extraordinary difficulties. The author, seeking to strengthen them, urges them not to leave Christ, their perfect and only Saviour and the regular gathering of God's people (10:24-25). Both were real temptations for his listeners. He encourages them by helping them see their local context through God's eyes. He shows them the mighty privilege of belonging to God's people, the church, by contrasting what was theirs under the old Covenant as Jewish believers. Today we face the same temptations, and grasping this reality that is ours in Christ, is still vital to renewing and restoring our love for Christ and the church.

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *Make note of repetitions of words or ideas; commands; OT quotes; time references; connecting words: such as therefore, so that, for, but; big Bible words [i.e. salvation, Passover, justification, atonement]; emotive words or images*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: Note what came just before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Break up the passage into a simple outline, giving verses.

5. The text reveals a key contrast between the worship of believers under the old covenant and the new. Lay out the contrasts below.

Old Covenant v18-21

New covenant v22-24

6. What do you think v22-23a means? (*Note the tense of "you have come" in v23*)

7. It has been said of the truths taught in this passage, “Christians are not a scattered people who sometimes gather but a gathered people who sometimes scatter”. According to Hebrews 12:22-24 and 10:24-25, why is gathering face-to-face with other believers God's plan for his people?

8. What obstacles / temptations challenge your face-to-face gathering with other Christians? Pray for each other and for our gatherings, and for help in overcoming the temptations we face to draw back from Christ and His people.

Collect: O GOD the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful: Sanctify this parish by thine abiding presence. Bless those who minister in holy things. Enlighten the minds of thy people more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel. Bring erring souls to the knowledge of God our Saviour; and those who are walking in the way of life, keep steadfast unto the end. Give patience to the sick and afflicted, and renew them in body and soul. Guard from forgetfulness of thee those who are strong and prosperous. Increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace, and make us all to be fruitful in good works; O blessed Spirit, whom with the Father and the Son together we worship and glorify, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE CHURCH AND ITS ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

Study 2 – Hebrews 12:28 – 13:16

The author of Hebrews continues to urge his readers to cling to Christ and his promises. He draws out further contrasts between the old covenant believers and those who have come to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant (12:24). He says however, with greater benefits also come greater consequences, ‘how much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven?’ and directs them to ‘offer acceptable worship. Just what that worship is, and how it is made possible is at the heart of this passage and our study.

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *Make note of repetitions of words or ideas; commands; OT quotes; time references; connecting words: such as therefore, so that, for, but; big Bible words [i.e. salvation, Passover, justification, atonement]; emotive words or images*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: Note what came before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Break up the passage into a simple outline, giving verses.

5. What reasons do we have to be grateful in 12:28, and what response is called for? What might that look like in your personal life and in our church life?

6. Circle each reference in the passage to Jesus. What do you notice? According to this passage how does Jesus transform our worship?

7. Why do you think the author reminds us that 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever', particularly in the light of 13:7, 9.

8. What do we learn is "acceptable worship" from this whole passage? What surprises you in your answer? See also Romans 12:1-3 (scan where the rest of that chapter goes)

9. Pray for each other, that together, we will "offer to God acceptable worship"

Collect: O LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion; that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace may evermore be defended by thy mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH AND ITS CHOSEN MARKS
Study 3 – 1 Peter 2:1-12

This jewel of a letter, written by the Apostle Peter, is addressed to refugee Christians scattered because of their faith in Christ (1:1). Peter, writing to help them stand firm under pressure, reminds them of their glorious and certain inheritance in Christ. This would be a precious reminder to people who are suffering, dispossessed of home, belongings and status. We learn a great deal about how God treasures the church, what it cost him to create, and what his purposes are for its life together.

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *Make note of repetitions of words or ideas; commands; OT quotes; time references; connecting words: such as therefore, so that, for, but; big Bible words [i.e. salvation, Passover, justification, atonement]; emotive words or images*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: Note what came before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Break up the passage into a simple outline, giving verses.

5. What words are used to describe the church in v4-5 and v9-10? What do they communicate about the nature of the church and its purpose? (Read Exodus 19:1-10 for background to these verses.)

6. What is the response God calls for from his people? v9b-12

7. What implications does this passage have for you and our church today?

8. In the Nicene Creed, we regularly declare “We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church”. Discuss together what these 4 marks of the church mean.

9. Pray together about the call and command of God to us as his people as 1 Peter 2 reveals it.

LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy house hold the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH IS ONE HOUSE
Study 4 – Ephesians 2:18-22

As Paul writes this letter to the Ephesian church, with the authority of being an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, he reminds them and us of the immeasurable ‘riches of God’s grace’ lavished upon us in Christ Jesus (1:7, 2:7). This grace has made us each members of Christ’s body, ‘the church’. Paul has placed a great importance on the church in this amazing little letter (1:22-23, 3:10-11), and he longs for them/us to grow to maturity in understanding what that means, and its implications for how we live.

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *Make note of repetitions of words or ideas; commands; OT quotes; connecting words: such as therefore, so then, for, but; big Bible words [i.e. salvation, Passover, justification, atonement]; emotive words or images*). Share your findings.

3. Context: Note what came before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Break up the passage into a simple outline, giving verses.

5. What do we learn about what it means to be the church from the several images that Paul uses in this passage? (You might find it helpful to reference Exodus 25:8; 2 Chron. 7:1-3; and Rev. 21:22 as you think this through.)

6. Paul describes the church here as both ‘a holy temple in the Lord’ and ‘a dwelling place for God by the Spirit’. Think about the magnitude of that! What implications does it have for how we live as the church, both in your own life and in our life together?

7. In the light of this teaching is there something specific that God is calling you to change in your life? Share with the group, and pray together about these things.

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head corner-stone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH IS ONE FLOCK
Study 5 – Acts 20:25-35

Acts 20 contains one of the longest speeches in the whole book, it comes at the end of Paul's extensive travels spent establishing churches, including the church he now revisits in Ephesus. It is interesting to think about why Luke would have chosen to record this scene at such length. This visit, however, is unusual. Rather than going to Ephesus itself, Paul gathers the elders outside the city, indicating something significant is taking place. He is handing over the oversight of the churches to them now, with the likelihood he will never return. His words are deeply moving as he seeks to pass on the responsibility of proclaiming the kingdom and shepherding God's people to the next generation. Along the way, we learn a great deal about the church, what it means to God and how it grows.

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *Make note of repetitions of words or ideas; commands; OT quotes; time references; connecting words: such as therefore, so that, for, but; big Bible words [i.e. salvation, Passover, justification, atonement]; emotive words or images*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: Note what came before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: divide this passage into its natural breaks, giving verses. (*with narratives, a simple way is to break it into scenes.*)

5. What several images does Paul use to describe the people of God?

6. What does Paul's final charge to the Ephesian elders teach us about the relationship of God, Father, Son and Spirit to the church?

7. What are the implications of this to the Ephesian Christians, and to us? What do we learn about how a church thrives and what are the threats to that growth?

8. What do you believe God wants you to do in the light of this passage's truths?

9. Pray together about how you are currently caring for and building up the 'flock of God' which Christ has obtained by his own blood.

Collect: O LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH IS ONE BODY
Study 6 – Ephesians 4:1-16

For the first three chapters of his letter to the Ephesian church Paul lays out God's eternal purpose, which he set forth in Christ as 'he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.'(1:22-23). God is establishing that purpose through those he has called, in Christ: the church. In these first chapters he has stressed the great need for the church to be united and also to be holy. In chapter 4 Paul lays out what it means practically for them, and for us, to live in the light of this new reality. So he begins, THEREFORE, I urge you...

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *Make note of repetitions of words or ideas; commands; OT quotes; time references; connecting words: such as therefore, so then, for, but; big Bible words [i.e. salvation, Passover, justification, atonement]; emotive words or images*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: Note what came before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Briefly outline the thread of Paul's logic, breaking the passage into a few points, giving verses. (Look at the grammar, especially the verbs, the 'connecting' words, for clues as to how to follow the logic of the author.) What emphasis does the structure reveal?

5. The fact that 'call, calling, called' is used several times should make us take note of it. How does it deepen and help shape your understanding of verses 1-6?

6. What are the implications of there being 'one God and Father of all'?

7. What does this passage teach us about the purpose of those whom the ascended Lord Jesus gives to the church?

8. What does Christian maturity look like? What doesn't it look like? Are there specific things that are keeping you from 'growing up in every way' into Christ?

9. What are you intentionally doing to build up the body? Pray together about these things.

Collect: ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all estates of men in thy holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE CHURCH AND ITS BODY LIFE
Study 7 – 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

In 1 Corinthians, Paul has addressed several questions that were sent to him from the Corinthians. He signals that he is responding to their questions by using the phrase ‘Now concerning’ (7:1, 7:25, 8:1, 12:1, 16:1). In chapters 12-14 Paul responds to their queries concerning spiritual gifts. He uses a wonderful metaphor, graphic and accessible to everyone, to teach precious, practical truths about what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ.

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *Make note of repetitions of words or ideas; commands; OT quotes; time references; connecting words: such as therefore, so that, for, but; big Bible words [i.e. salvation, Passover, justification, atonement]; emotive words or images*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: Note what came before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Briefly outline the thread of Paul's logic, breaking the passage into a few points, giving verses. (Look at the grammar, the 'connecting' words, the verbs, for clues as to how to follow the logic of the author.) What emphasis does the structure reveal?

5. What do the verbs in the passage have to say specifically about God and the body of Christ?

6. What temptations in living as the body of Christ do these verses address? What remedy is offered?

v14-20

v21-26

Which of these is your greatest temptation, personally?

7. Since God has given **all** members of his body gifts to be used in love, write down the names of the others in your group and what spiritual gift you believe they have. Share with the group the gifts you believe each member has.

8. Spend time in prayer together asking God to help us use the gifts he has given us for loving, caring and building his body.

Collect: O GOD the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all enmity and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH AND ITS GROWTH
Study 8 – 1 Corinthians 14:1-26

In Chapter 14 Paul continues teaching concerning spiritual gifts, but narrows his focus to the gifts of tongues and prophecy. Whatever ‘tongues’ and ‘prophecy’ are precisely, the Apostle’s concern is deeper than any specific gift and has to do with the purpose of God’s gifts which is ‘edification’, the building up of the church. Note that Paul is talking about behavior in our corporate gatherings (11:18, 14:19, 28).

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation. This is a long passage and you might want to write only 14:1-12 and v20-26.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *Make note of repetitions of words or ideas; commands; connecting words: such as for, but, now; especially note the contrasts in this passage*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: Note what came before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Briefly outline the thread of Paul's logic, breaking the passage into a few points, giving verses. (Look at the grammar, the 'connecting' words, the verbs, for clues as to how to follow the logic of the author.) What emphasis does the structure reveal?

5. What do these verses tell us are the purpose for coming to church? Why does Paul set these verses in the context of pursuing 'love'? (chapter 13, 14:1)

6. In v23-25 what is Paul's expectation of our church gatherings in relation to the outsider? In Paul's view, how can an outsider become a believer?

7. How do the different elements of our gatherings edify and build up the church presently?

8. How can you better obey this passage and build up others in our context when you come to church? Pray together about these things.

Collect: O LORD Jesus Christ, who didst say unto thine Apostles, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: Regard not our sins, but the faith of thy Church, and grant unto it that peace and unity which is agreeable to thy will; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE CHURCH AND ITS FELLOWSHIP

Study 9 – 1 John 1:3-10

The elderly Apostle John, in the opening verses of his first letter, reveals what is meant by the word 'fellowship'. It's a word that has lost much of its biblical richness today and grasping what John teaches about it will enable us to enter more fully into the life of God together.

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (*eg. – Especially note the repetition of words or ideas; connecting words; big Bible words [i.e. salvation, Passover, justification, atonement]; emotive words*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: Note what came before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Break up the passage into a simple outline, giving verses.

5. How do we commonly use the word 'fellowship'? What do you understand it to mean as John uses it (note its repetition in the passage)?

6. What is the purpose of proclaiming eternal life, according to John? (See also Jesus words in John 17:3.)

7. The Greek word for 'fellowship' is 'koinonia' which means, 'sharing or participating in something in common'. What do Christians share or have in common that serves as the basis for all our fellowship together? v3-10

8. What does our passage reveal to be the way fellowship with God and each other is maintained?

9. Joy is made complete as we live in fellowship with God and one another, 1:4. What gives you joy in your fellowship with God and each other? What is hindering your joy in that fellowship? (*Is there something you need to confess?*) Walk in the light and pray for each other in this area, clinging to the promises of 1:9.

Collect: MOST gracious God, we humbly beseech thee for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth; in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where any thing is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, make it whole again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION
Study 10 – Matthew 28:16-20

Last words to loved ones often come with great weight. How much more the final words of Christ to his disciples! Matthew gives these words to us succinctly and clearly and they leave Jesus' followers in no uncertainty regarding his desires for the future work of the church. Surrounded by a world that seeks to actively suppress the truth (28: 11-15), Christ calls his followers to a new mission that He intends to shape everything they do together as God's people. (Note: The key command amongst several verbs in v19 is to 'make disciples').

1. Write out the passage line by line (one complete idea per line), or to the new point of punctuation.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *repeated ideas, verbs indicating commands and truths about what God has done. Notice especially words that are global, all inclusive or universal in scope*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: What is the significance of where this passage comes in the book, and particularly what precedes it in chapter 28?. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Break up the passage into a simple outline, giving verses.

5. What does Christ call his disciples to do in the light of His authority, given by God at his resurrection? Why is their first response in v 9 and v17 not enough?

6. What do the all inclusive, universal words teach us about the scope of disciple making?

7. As time allows, share together about somebody who was significant in making you into a disciple of Christ.

8. How are you currently obeying Christ's command to make disciples of others?
How does the life of our church demonstrate this priority?

9. Pray that you and your church will take Christ's promises and call in Matthew 28 to heart and that God will use you to make disciples.

ALMIGHTY God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give commandment to the Apostles that they should go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature: Grant to us whom thou hast called into thy Church, a ready will to obey thy Word; and fill us with a hearty desire to make thy way known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH AND ITS DESTINY
Study 11 – Revelation 21:1-4 and 9-27

The book of Revelation gives us God's perspective on world history, revealing in stunning images and symbols, what is at the centre of all of His purposes. In the face of world empires that oppose his purposes, God gives deep and needed reassurance that He will bring all His promises to fruition. Jesus Christ is the one who will establish God's kingdom on earth by his death on a cross (5:5-14), his resurrection and his return. The book comes to its culmination in Ch. 21-22 with an extraordinary vision of the end (and new beginning!) of all things. We discover that the church itself, by faithful witness to these cosmic realities and as his beloved bride, is central to everything Christ is doing and will do in the new heavens and new earth.

1. This is a long passage so: We recommend you read 21:1-8 and only write out 21:9-27 line by line.

2. Read through the passage and look carefully at the words! Underline, circle/box, or highlight key words. (eg. - *Make note of repetitions of words or ideas; commands; OT quotes; time references; connecting words: such as therefore, so that, for, but; big Bible words [i.e. salvation, Passover, justification, atonement]; emotive words or images*). Share your findings with the group.

3. Context: Note what came before, and what follows this passage. How does the immediate context inform this passage?

4. Structure: Break up the passage into a simple outline, giving verses.

5. What different visions of the church are seen by John, in chapter 21? How do some of these connect to the images we have already studied in this series and how does John's unique way of describing them deepen our understanding of the church?

6. In Ephesians 5:25-30 the apostle Paul meditates on the picture of the church as a bride. What more does it teach us about why God would call the church a bride?

7. What key truths does all the rich symbolism in this Revelation passage communicate to us concerning the future of the church beyond history?

8. What will it mean that God will 'dwell with them'/us in v3-8 and v22-27?

9. To conclude this study and this series, have one member read the joyous, new song found in Revelation 5: 9-10. Then together join with the thousands of thousands, praising God and His Son, the Lamb who was slain, for his kindness and mercy, his wisdom, and power, and his glory and goodness in gathering you to himself and into his church. Now ask him to build his church through you, in our midst and in the world.

Collect: O HEAVENLY Father, who in thy Son Jesus Christ hast given us a true faith and a sure hope: Help us, we pray thee, to live as those who believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting; and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the days of our life; through the love of thy Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.