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Romans 12:1-2

The Message
“For the secret of man’s being is not only to live but to have something to live for. Without a stable conception of the object of life, man would not consent to go on living and would rather destroy himself than remain on earth, though he had bread in abundance.”

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov
Open Table
Candle Lighting

“I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” – Yeshua

{Light Two candles: shamor (to keep) + zakhor (remember)}
... wave hands over candles, toward her three times reciting

“Barukh attah Adonai eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kideshanu bemitzvotav ve-tsivanu lehiyot or le-goyim v’natan-lanu et Yeshua Meshicheinu or Ha-olam.”

{Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who sanctified us with his Commandments, and commanded us to be a light to the nations and Who gave us Yeshua our Messiah, the Light of the World.}
Sabbath blessing over wine
(‘Kiddush’—raise your cups)

“Baruch ata Adonay Eloheynu melech ha olam borey pri ha gafen.”

{Blessed are You, O Lord our God King of the Universe who has created the fruit of the vine.}

Yeshua held up the cup of wine at the Passover meal and said: “this is my blood of the New Covenant which is shed for many” (Mark 14: 23-24).

Messianic Shabbat
Blessing over the Challah  
(break the bread)

“Baruch ata Adonay Eloheynu melech ha olam, 
ha motzi lechem min ha aretz.”

{Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, 
who gives us bread that comes out of the earth.}

Yeshua said: “I Am the bread of life. 
He who comes to Me shall never hunger, 
and he who believes in Me shall never thirst”  
(John 6:35).
Blessing for our children, saying their names first....

“May the Lord bless you and protect you,
May the Lord shine His face to you
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord turn His face to you
and give you peace.”

{SAY TOGETHER: SHABBAT SHALOM.}
Blessing after the meal

“Blessed are you, Lord our God, Master of the Universe, Who nourishes the whole world in goodness, with grace, kindness, and compassion. He gives bread to all flesh, for His mercy endures forever. And through His great goodness, we have never lacked, nor will we ever lack food forever, for the sake of His great Name. For He is God, who nourishes and sustains all, and does good to all, and prepares food for all His creatures which He created. Blessed are You, Lord our God, who nourishes all. Amen.”
Life & Death

“The Pioneer” triptych

| Frederick McCubbin (1904) |
LIFE & DEATH is an invitation to share personal stories at the razor’s edge between health and sickness, flourishing and devastation, blessing and curses, even heaven and hell.

Let these questions prime the pump:

What choices and circumstances drove you there?
What made the difference between these seemingly binary outcomes?
Can we embrace life as part of death, and death as part of life?
Where, if anywhere, do we find “life to the full”? 
Life & Death

REQUIEM

Lives are sacred; theirs and ours,
Trees and creatures, birds and flowers
Light a candle bright and small;
Requiem for one and all.

Life is wondrous, so is death;
Glorious the Final breath.
Let a flower be the prayer,
Life and death be everywhere.

"Requiem"

| Michael Leunig
| (2015)
Life & Death

“The Pioneer” triptych

| Frederick McCubbin (1904)
“Still Life with Basket of Fruit” (Dutch still life painting here)

| Balthasar van der Ast (1622) | Life & Death |
“Life and Death”

| Salvador Dali (1940) |
Life & Death

“Black Paintings” (here) | Goya (1819-1823)

<Saturn devouring his son

The Dog>
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life.

John 10:10
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life (ζωή), and have it to the full.

Matthew 10:39
If you cling to your life (ψυχή), you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.
Life
Near-Life Experience
Cartoon

“Near-Life Experience”

| Michael Leunig

He had heard of near-death experiences and their transforming power but he had never had one.

It seemed to him that much of humanity was near death; the way people watched so much television! "The living dead" he thought.

While out walking it occurred to him that modern existence itself might be a constant, near-death experience.

A flower truck turned a corner and a load of daffodils spilled from the back and buried him.

He lay bewildered for a moment under the glowing yellow heap and then poked his head out into the sunshine.

He saw his reflection in a shop window. He smelled the daffodils. "How lovely!" he thought. It was a near-life experience and already a transformation was in progress.
the body: spirit and flesh

“The Body: Spirit & Flesh”
Wax Sculpture
| Deb Mostert (2003)
Life & Death

“Man in a Boat” (2002)
Sculpture | Ron Mueck
“Dead Dad” (1996); “A Girl” (2006) sculpture
Ron Mueck
Video (Music by Thomas Feiner & Anywhen)  
| “The Artistry of Ron Mueck” (clip here)
INTERVIEW WITH AN AUTUMN LEAF

Q. How would you describe yourself?
Q. How did this happen?
A.L. I just couldn't hold on any longer. I let go and down I fluttered. It felt OK. My work was done. I'd had enough.
Q. You mean you couldn't take it anymore?
A.L. No. I mean I was satisfied. I'd had a good enough life. I guess I was happy.
Q. What were the high points?
A.L. I can't remember. It was all pretty good.
Q. Any advice to the readers?
Q. Thank you.
A.L. My pleasure.

"Interview with an Autumn Leaf"

| Michael Leunig (2017) |
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Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov
Video Clip, C. S. Lewis Narnia | “The Deeper Magic” (clip here)
"The Body of the Dead Christ in the Tomb"
| Hans Holbein (1520–1522)

Life & Death

The Body of the Dead Christ in the Tomb

Hans Holbein

(1520–1522)
Ecclesiastes 3
To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die
Ecclesiastes 3

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die
Ecclesiastes 3 | To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die
1 Corinthians 15:55-57
Where O death is your sting?

Colossians 2:14-15 | When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ’s cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

Hebrews 2:14-15 | Through death Jesus destroyed the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and delivered all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery

“The Resurrection” fresco | Piero della Francesca (1465)
Quarry Church

Sundays, 8am
Nov 22/Dec 9: The Power of Poetry

T. S. Eliot (1934) “The Rock”/
Dorothy Sayers “The Man Born to Be King”
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