

<p style="text-align: center;">PRAYERS AFTER DEATH LAY PERSON PRESIDING</p>

The following is a model of prayer that can be used when the family either first learns about the death of a loved one or when the family gathers privately in prayer to remember their loved one when a funeral liturgy in the Church or funeral home is not possible. The prayer may be adapted to the circumstances and desires of those celebrating: for example, a song may be sung at the beginning or end, additional Scripture passages can be read, and words of remembrance may be spoken. Anyone may lead the prayer; another person may assist in proclaiming the reading from Scripture.

A prayer space can be made that helps with the meditative nature of this prayer. The picture of the deceased (or a collage of photos) may be placed nearby. A small table with a cross and a candle may also be used.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

When all have gathered all make the sign of the cross while the leader says:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All respond: **Amen.**

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Leader: In this moment of sorrow, the Lord is in our midst and consoles us with his word: Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be comforted.

SCRIPTURE VERSE

The following verse or another passage from Scripture may be read by the leader or another family member:

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

~ John 11:21-27

PSALM

The following Psalm (or another Psalm) is said by the leader or another family member.

Our response to each verse is “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

All: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He guides me in right paths for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.
With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

All: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

All: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come.

All: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

People may take turns offering their words of remembrance of their loved one.

SONG

If the deceased loved one had a favorite religious song, it may be sung (or played) at this time. Or someone in the family may offer a song as prayerful reflection. A traditional song such as “Amazing Grace” or “How Great Thou Art” may be sung if it is known.

SILENCE

There may be a short period of silence to allow for private prayer.

LITANY

Leader: To each invocation, please respond "Lord have mercy."

Risen Lord, pattern of our life for ever. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Promise and image of what we shall be. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Son of God who came to destroy sin and death. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Word of God who delivered us from the fear of death. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Crucified Lord, forsaken in death; raised in glory. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd who brings rest to our souls. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain. Bless our family who gathers this (day/evening). Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father...

PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED

Leader:

Holy Lord, almighty and eternal God,

hear our prayers for our loved one (**name of deceased**)

whom you have summoned out of this world.

Forgive (his/her) sins and failings

and grant (him/her) a place of refreshment, light, and peace.

Let (him/her) pass unharmed
through the gates of death
to dwell with the blessed in light,
as you promised to Abraham and his children for ever.

Accept (**name of deceased**) into your safekeeping
and on the great day of judgment
raise (him/her) up
with all the saints to inherit your eternal kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen**

PRAYER FOR THE MOURNERS _____

Leader:

Father of mercies and God of all consolation,
you pursue us with untiring love
and dispel the shadow of death
with the bright dawn of life.

Comfort our family in our loss and sorrow.
Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord,
and lift us from the depth of grief
into the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying has destroyed death,
and by rising, restored our life.
Enable us, therefore, to press on toward him,
so that, after our earthly course is run,
he may reunite us with those we love,
when every tear will be wiped away.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen**

BLESSING _____

Leader: Blessed are those who have died in the Lord: let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them.

The ritual concludes as follows:

Leader: Eternal rest grant unto (him/her), O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon (him/her).

Leader: May (he/she) rest in peace.

All: Amen.

Leader: May (his/her) soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **All:** Amen.

Leader: May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes: (the leader makes the sign of the cross on him or herself) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE _____

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.