



Prayers

when not able to be present at a funeral

OPENING

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

INTRODUCTION

We meet in this solemn moment in the presence of God;
to give thanks for the life of our *sister/brother N*;
to commend *her/him* to God's loving and faithful care;
and through our love and prayers, to seek comfort in our grief.

Knowing our God to be gentle and full of compassion,
we offer him our human frailty and the heaviness of our hearts.

We turn from any wrong we have thought and said and done;
We are mindful of all that we have failed to do or say;
Forgive us all that is past, help us to lay aside all fear and guilt,
that we may all know your healing and salvation,
your freedom and your peace.

God you are our refuge and our strength
close at hand in our distress;
meet us in our sorrow and lift our eyes
to the peace and light of your constant care.
Help us so to hear your word of grace
that our fear will be dispelled by your love,
our loneliness eased by your presence
and our hope renewed by your promises
in Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

READING[S] (from a selection at the end)

PRAYERS

Loving God, you brought us to birth,
and at our last hour you welcome us into your presence.
As we rejoice in the promise of resurrection
may the darkness of death be turned into the dawn of new life,
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

-- A prayer of thanksgiving

God of mercy, Lord of life,
you made us in your image
to reflect your truth and light:
we give you thanks for *N*,
for the grace and mercy *s/he* received from you,
for all that was good in *her/his* life,
for the memories we treasure today.
and will hold dear tomorrow.

-- A prayer for those who mourn

Eternal God,
Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort:
deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn,
that, casting all their care on you,
they may know the consolation of your love;

In our darkness
let the light of your love still shine within us
and in our pain and loss,
let the peace of your presence continue to fill our lives.
Surround us today with your compassion;
do not let grief overwhelm us,
nor anguish of heart turn us from you.

So merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We say together the Lord's prayer, in its traditional form

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

COMMENDATION

Into your keeping, Eternal God,
we commend your servant *N*.
Receive *her/him* into the arms of your mercy,
into the joy of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints in light;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

FAREWELL

[Go forth upon your journey from this world,
N, dear child of God,
into the hands of the Father who made you
to find life in Christ who redeemed you
to rejoice in the Spirit who renews you.

May the angels and saints of God sustain you,
and the company of the redeemed enfold you.
May peace be yours this day and the heavenly city your home.]

May God give us his comfort and his peace,
his light, his love and his joy, in this world and the next. **Amen.**

May the souls of the faithful departed in the mercy of God,
rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen.**

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

John 14

Jesus said to his disciples,

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust also in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;

if there were not, would I have told you so?

I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am, you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.”

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

Ecclesiastes 3

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to break down and a time to build up,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

God made everything beautiful in its time.

Revelation 21

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

[and the one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.”]

