

Additional Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: we give you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of all your servants, who having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of your holy name, have perfect fulfilment and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, whose days are without end and whose mercies cannot be numbered: make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of the catholic Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a religious and holy hope, in favour with you, our God, and in perfect charity with all. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, the king of saints, we praise and glorify your holy name for all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear: for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all your other righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we pray that, encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Resurrection and the Life: raise us, we humbly pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; that when we depart this life we may rest in him, and at the resurrection receive that blessing which your well-beloved Son shall then pronounce: "Come, you blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world." Grant this, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death. Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness, for your tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. And this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort, deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The following prayer may be adapted to reflect the age, sex, and other aspects of the deceased person. It may be used as the Prayers of the People.

God of grace and glory, we thank you for N, who was so near and dear to us, and who has now been taken from us.

We thank you for the friendship *he/she* gave and for the strength and peace *he/she* brought.

We thank you for the love *he/she* offered and received while *he/she* was with us on earth.

We pray that nothing good in this *man's/woman's* life will be lost, but will be of benefit to the world; that all that was important to *him/her* will be respected by those who follow; and that everything in which *he/she* was great will continue to mean much to us now that *he/she* is dead.

We ask you that *he/she* may go on living in *his/her* children, *his/her* family and *his/her* friends; in their hearts and minds, in their courage and their consciences.

We ask you that we who were close to *him/her* may now, because of *his/her* death, be even closer to each other, and that we may, in peace and friendship here on earth, always be deeply conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death.

We pray for ourselves, who are severely tested by this death, that we do not try to minimize this loss, or seek refuge from it in words alone, and also that we do not brood over it so that it overwhelms us and isolates us from others.

May God grant us courage and confidence in the new life of Christ.

We ask this in the name of the risen Lord. **Amen.** †

Prayers for the Funeral of a Child

O God, whose beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them, give us grace to entrust *N* to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with *NN* in their grief. Surround them with your love, that *they* may not be overwhelmed by *their* loss, but have confidence in your goodness and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, listen to the prayers of this family that put their trust in you. In their sorrow at the death of this child, may they find hope in your infinite mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

† Adapted from "for a Dead Person" from *Your Word is Near* by Huub Oosterhuis. © 1968 by the missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle in the State of New York. Used by permission of the Paulist Press.

Readings and Psalms Suitable for Funeral Liturgies

Old Testament Readings

- Job 19.1, 21–27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)
Isaiah 25.6–9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
Isaiah 61.1–3 (To comfort all who mourn)
Lamentations 3.17–26, 31–33 (The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases)
Daniel 12.1–3 (Every one whose name shall be found written in the book)
Wisdom 3.1–6(7–9) (The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God)

Psalms and Suitable Refrains

- 23 (I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever)
25 (Remember me according to your love, O Lord)
42 (I will give thanks to him who is my help and my God)
51 (Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness)
90 (From age to age you are God)
121 (My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth)
122 (May they prosper who love Jerusalem)
126 (Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy)
130 (My soul waits for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy)
134 (Bless the Lord who made heaven and earth)
139 (Lead me in the way that is everlasting)

New Testament Readings

- Romans 6.3–9 (All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death)
Romans 8.14–19(34–35, 37–39) (The glory that is to be revealed)
Romans 14.7–9 (Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's)
1 Corinthians 15.20–28(35–44a) (In Christ shall all be made alive)
1 Corinthians 15.51–57 (Death is swallowed up in victory)
2 Corinthians 4.7–18 (The things that are unseen are eternal)
2 Corinthians 5.1–9 (What is mortal may be swallowed up by life)
Philippians 3.20–21 (To be like his glorious body)
1 Thessalonians 4.13–18 (So we shall always be with the Lord)
2 Timothy 2.8–12a (If we have died with him, we shall also live with him)
1 Peter 1.3–9 (We have been born anew to a living hope)
1 John 3.1–2 (We shall be like him)
1 John 4.7–18a (We may have confidence for the day of judgement)
Revelation 21.1–7 (Behold I make all things new)

Gospel Readings

Matthew 5.1–12a (Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven)

Matthew 11.25–30 (Come to me and I will give you rest)

Mark 15.33–39; 16.1–7 (He has risen, he is not here)

Luke 24.13–16(17–27) 28–35 (He was known to them in the breaking of the bread)

John 5.24–27 (Who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life)

John 6.37–40 (All that the Father gives me will come to me)

John 10.11–16 (I am the good shepherd)

John 11.17–27 (I am the resurrection and the life)

John 14.1–6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

John 20.1–9 (The stone had been taken away from the tomb)

Non-Biblical Readings

A short, appropriate reading from a non-biblical source may be read instead of one of the readings before the Gospel, or at the time of the sermon, or at another suitable point in the service.