



Bereavement Resources

Prayers after Someone has Died
Prayers at Home before the Funeral
A Simple Reflection on the Day of the Funeral
(for those who cannot be present)

Prayers after Someone has Died

This reflection is to be used after a death. [Where it says 'N' in a prayer, just say the name of your person]. You might like to light a candle. Then pray:

In this moment of sorrow the Lord is in our midst and consoles us with his word: No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him. Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be comforted. Into your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our *brother/sister N*. In this life you embraced *him/her* with your tender love, and opened to *him/her* the gate of heaven. The old order has passed away, as you welcome *him/her* into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, into whose hands Jesus Christ commended his spirit at the last hour: into those same hands we now commend your servant *N*, that death may be for *him/her* the gate to life and to eternal fellowship with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remember, O Lord, this your servant, who has gone before us with the sign of faith and now rests in the sleep of peace. According to your promises, grant to *him/her* and to all who rest in Christ, refreshment, light and peace; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, surround the family of *N* 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. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Additional Prayers:

For the Dying

O Lord Jesus Christ, in your last agony you committed your spirit into the hands of your heavenly Father; have mercy on all sick and dying people; may death be to them the gate of everlasting life; and give to them the assurance of your presence even in the dark hour of their passing, for you are the resurrection and the life; and to you be the glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

For the Departed

Remember, O Lord, all your servants who have departed this life, especiallyand all others to whom remembrance is due. Give them eternal rest and peace in your heavenly kingdom and to each of us such measure of communion with them as you know to be best for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O eternal God, whose mercies cannot be numbered, accept our prayers for your servantsand grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints, through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them: May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. May they rise in glory. **Amen.**

For Those who have Committed Suicide

Almighty God, Father of all, have mercy on the souls of those who, in their darkness, taken their own lives, grant them light and salvation that they may find life in your love and glorify your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At Home before the Funeral

Preparation

At this time of sorrow the Lord is in our midst and consoles us with his word: Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be comforted. Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who grieve with the same consolation we have received from him. We shall not all die
but we shall be changed.

The trumpet shall sound and the dead will rise immortal
and we shall be changed.

The perishable must be clothed with the imperishable
and the mortal must be clothed with immortality.

We shall not all die
but we shall be changed.

Readings

This or other appropriate reading may be used.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
(1 Thess 4:13-15)

Prayers

Memories of the departed may be shared, ending with the following prayer.

O God, who brought us to birth, and in whose arms we die, in our grief and shock contain and comfort us; embrace

us with your love, give us hope in our confusion and grace to let go into new life; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

These or other prayers may follow

Lord, we come into your presence to remember *N* and to seek your comfort, for we know that nothing can separate us from your love and that you support us in our sorrow. We are sure that the souls of the righteous are with you and that nothing can harm them. Although they have died they are in peace. Give us your strength to rejoice that you have taken *N* to be with yourself where *he/she* shall no more be in need. May we find life and peace and perfect joy with *him/her* in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Your Son, by dying for us, conquered death and, by rising again, restored to us eternal life. May we then go forward eagerly to meet our redeemer and, after our life on earth, be reunited with all our brothers and sisters in that place where every tear is wiped away and all things are made new; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Lord, be with us as we open the Door. Come in with us, go out with us. Do not sleep when we sleep, but watch over us, protect us and keep us safe, our only helper and maker. **Amen.**

Conclusion

And now to him who is able to keep us from falling, and lift us from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy; to him be power and authority, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Simple Reflection at Home on the Day of the Funeral

Introduction

This reflection is to be used when you are unable to attend a funeral. Before you find a place to sit quietly, you might like to find a photograph of the person who has died, write down some special memories, or play a special piece of music that connects you with the person you are remembering today. Think about those who are at the funeral and pray for them. [Where it says 'N' in a prayer, just say the name of your person]. You might like to light a candle. Then pray:

Be with us, loving God. Hear our prayers and comfort us in our loss, and help us to trust in your Son Jesus, whom you raised from the dead. Strengthen our faith and renew our hope that N and all those we love will share in his resurrection. **Amen.**

Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. *(Psalm 23)*

Bible Reading

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *(Rom.8:38-9)*

Reflection

Reflect on your memories. What stands out in your memory about N? What will you always remember about them? What things did you learn through their life and death, including about God? Now give thanks to God for their life and ask for strength for yourself and those who grieve.

Dear God, thank you for N, and for all that he/she meant to me and to others. I so wanted to say goodbye. Help me to know you are there, holding all my hopes, holding all those I love, especially N, and holding me this day too. Be close to us all this day with your peace and hope. **Amen.** Heavenly Father, you have not made us for darkness and death, but for life with you for ever. Without you we have nothing to hope for; with you we have nothing to fear. Speak to us now your words of eternal life. Lift us to the light and peace of your presence, and set the glory of your love before us today: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on 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.**

Prayer of Entrusting

God our creator and redeemer, by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory. Confident of his victory and claiming his promises, we entrust N to your mercy in the name of Jesus our Lord, who died and is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. **Amen**