

# Prayers for use on hearing of a death, or on the day of a funeral

We shall not all die  
**but we shall be changed.**

The trumpet shall sound and the dead will be raised  
**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.**

Give rest, O Christ,  
to your servant with your saints,  
where pain and sorrow are no more, nor sighing, but life everlasting.  
You alone are immortal, Creator and Maker of humanity,  
and we are mortal, formed out of the earth, and unto earth we shall return;  
for so you ordained when you created me, saying, "You are dust and to dust you shall return."  
We all go down to the dust,  
and over the grave we weep and make our song: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Give rest, O Christ,  
to your servant with your saints,  
where pain and sorrow are no more, nor sighing, but life everlasting. Amen.

*Russian Kontakion of the Dead*

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.

The Lord is my shepherd  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall feed me in a green pasture  
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.  
He shall convert my soul  
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness,  
for his Name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I will fear no evil  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff  
comfort me.  
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them  
that trouble me  
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup  
shall be full.  
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Psalm 23*

*A scripture reading may follow, one of the following or some other*

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

*John 11.21-27*

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

*Romans 6.3-9*

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.  
And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death for ever.  
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.  
It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

*Isaiah 25.6-9*

*Either alone, or with others, bring to mind memories of the departed, ending with the following prayer*

O God,  
who brought us to birth  
and in whose arms we die:  
in our grief 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 our Lord. Amen.

*Prayers may be offered, for those who grieve, and for the repose of the soul of the departed.*

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We commend N to you, O God,  
as s/he journeys beyond our sight.

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 *her/him*  
the gate to life and to eternal fellowship with you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

Go forth upon your journey from this world, O Christian soul;  
in the name of God the Father who created you.  
In the name of Jesus Christ who suffered for you.  
In the name of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you.  
In communion with all the blessed saints;  
with the angels and archangels and all the heavenly host  
may your portion this day be in peace  
and your dwelling in the heavenly Jerusalem. Amen.

*and/or*

N., our companion in faith and *brother/sister* in Christ,  
we entrust you to the God who created you.  
May you return to the Most High who formed you from the dust of the earth.  
May the angels and the saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life.  
May Christ, who was crucified for you, take you into his kingdom.  
May Christ the Good Shepherd give you a place within his flock.  
May Christ forgive you your sins and keep you among his people.  
May you see your Redeemer face to face and delight in the vision of God for ever. Amen.

*and/or*

N., may Christ give you rest in the land of the living  
and open for you the gates of Paradise;  
may he receive you as a citizen of the kingdom,  
and grant you forgiveness of your sins:  
for you were his friend.

Rest eternal grant unto N., O Lord,  
and let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*.  
May *s/he* rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Now to the One who is able to keep us from falling  
and set us in the presence of the divine glory,  
to the only God our Saviour  
be glory and majesty, dominion and praise,  
now and for ever. Amen.

*Adapted from Celebrating Common Prayer*