

Prayers for those unable to attend a Funeral

Whether alone or with other members of your household, perhaps you could create a focal point for prayer. Light a candle, place a picture of your loved one nearby and perhaps a cross or crucifix or some other symbol of Christian hope.

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.'

Although we are separated by distance, unable to gather to celebrate the funeral of *N* we unite our thoughts and prayers with all who loved and continue to love *him/her*.

Reading

A reading from the gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Psalm 23

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.

Prayers

God of grace and glory,
we remember before you our *brother/sister N*.
Give us faith to see in death
the gate of eternal life,
so that in quiet confidence
we may continue our course on earth,
until we are reunited with those
who have died in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heavenly Father,
you are our refuge and strength.
Help and comfort us today:
increase our faith, dispel our fears,
revive our hope.
May the Holy Spirit lift us
from the darkness of our grief
to the light of your presence;
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.**

A Prayer of Commendation

This prayer may be preceded by a time of silent recollection or sharing of memories with those with whom you are gathered.

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**

The Lord bless us and keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**