

Hospice
Prayer
Book

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Christian Rite of Healing

Greeting

Peace be unto this house/place.

Response: And to all who dwell here.

In the name of the ☩ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

May that peace which passes all understanding be with you always.

Response: And also with you.

My friends, we are gathered here in the name of Jesus the Christ who is present among us. As the gospel tells us, the sick came to Jesus for healing and no one was ever turned away. He loves us so much that he died for us and through the apostle James, we are commanded: "Are there any who are sick among you? Let them send for the elders of the Church, and let the elders pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save them, and God will raise them up; and if they have committed any sins, their sins will be forgiven them."

(Jas 5:13-15)

In the gospel according to Mark we read that Jesus empowered his disciples to heal and "They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them."

(Mk 6:12-13)

So, by virtue of our faith and our baptism, we are both commanded and empowered to heal as Jesus did. To prepare ourselves for this ancient rite of healing, let us ask our compassionate Creator in the silence of our hearts for forgiveness

for those times that we have chosen darkness over light, sin over virtue, and despair over hope. *(Pause for reflection)* Let us confess with all humility:

Confession

*I know indeed that your love and mercy are eternal.
Put forth to me the power of your love
and enfold me in your embrace.
Create a clean heart within me, O God,
so that it may become your chosen shelter
and the resting place of the Holy Spirit.
I make the cross of Christ upon my breast ✠
over the tablet of my heart,
and I ask you, God of the universe,
may the Light of lights come into my heart
so that I may live in the power of your love. Amen.*

OR

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart. Lord have mercy:

Response: Lord, have mercy

You came to call sinners. Christ have mercy:


Response: Christ, have mercy

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us.
Lord have mercy:

Response: Lord, have mercy

Assurance of Forgiveness/Absolution

Merciful God, through the death and the resurrection of your Son you have reconciled the world to yourself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins. Grant **N.** pardon and peace,

and absolve her/him from her/his sins, in the Name of the  Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark:

Response: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Mark 1:40-42: A leper came to [Jesus] begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you choose, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

OR

A reading from the First Letter of Peter:

1 Peter 1:3-9: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

The Lord's Prayer

Now let us offer together the prayer our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

*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
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]*

COMMUNION RITE

Holy Communion with pre-sanctified Elements may be offered here.

The Lamb of God, heals the brokenness in our lives. Happy are we who are called to this supper.

*Response: Lord Jesus, through your love and compassion,
grace and mercy,
we are healed and whole,
made worthy to receive you.*

Reception of the Eucharist

The Body of Christ. *Amen.*

The Blood of Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer after Communion

Merciful and Loving God, we give you thanks for your heavenly bread and the fruit of the vine which brings us to life eternal. Transform us that we may be Christ in the world for others. Feed and nourish our spirits and draw us into yourself.

Divine Beloved, pour out your Spirit upon us and all who seek to serve you, that by your grace, we may become your healing hands in this world. Remember your people, Heavenly Creator, and heal us from all that keeps us from uniting in the Light. We make our prayer through Christ, your Son and our Lord. *Amen.*

Litany

Come and strengthen your friend, **N.** through this holy anointing:

Response: Christ, hear us.

Protect him/her from all harm:

Response: Christ, hear us.

Fill his/her heart with your love, compassion, grace and mercy, and allow him/her to feel your abiding presence:

Response: Christ, hear us.

Relieve the sufferings of all who are ill:

Response: Christ, hear us.

Assist all those who are dedicated to the care of the sick:

Response: Christ, hear us.

Give life and health to our brother/sister **N.**, on whom we lay our hands in your name:

Response: Christ, hear us.

Laying on of Hands

In silence, the Celebrant lays his/her hands on the head of the sick person and asks God to provide comfort, peace and healing.

Blessing of the Oil *(if using unblessed oil)*

Loving God, you bring healing to the sick through your Son Jesus Christ. Hear us as we pray to you in faith, and send the Holy Spirit, upon this oil, which nature has provided to serve the needs of humankind. May your blessing ✠ come upon all who are anointed with this oil, that they may be freed from pain and illness and made well again in body, mind, and soul. Merciful Healer, may this oil be blessed for our use in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. ***Amen.***

Prayer for the Sick

Praise to you, Most Holy One your unfailing power gives us strength in our bodily weakness. Blessed are you, Eternal God who heals us in Christ. God of mercy, with confidence in your power and will that all sickness be healed, we ask that this healing will be a joyful witness to the power of your love. Ease the sufferings and comfort the weakness of your friend, **N.** whom we as your people and Church anoint with this oil. We ask this in the Name of Jesus the Christ. ***Amen***

General Anointing *(Short Form)*

While make the Sign of the Cross with oil on the forehead:
Through this holy anointing, may the love and mercy of God help you through the grace of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

While make the Sign of the Cross with oil on the hands:

And may Jesus, the Christ who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up. ***Amen.***

The Anointing of All the Senses (Long Form):

The Celebrant anoints the sick person with the blessed oil. Anoint head, eyes, hands, heart, and anywhere else (such as the area of pain or injury) that may be appropriate.

On the Forehead: Through this holy anointing ✠ and through God's most loving mercy, may you be forgiven of all of the sins you have committed in your lifetime and may the power of the Holy Spirit heal you in body, mind, soul and spirit. ***Amen.***

On the Eyes: Through this holy anointing ✠ and though God's most loving mercy, may you maintain a vision of God's glory. ***Amen.***

On the Ears: Through this holy anointing ✠ and through God's most loving mercy, may you hear God's saving word. ***Amen.***

On the Nostrils: Through this holy anointing ✠ and through God's most loving mercy, may you smell the sweetness of the God's love. ***Amen.***

On the Mouth (the lips closed): Through this holy anointing ✠ and through God's most loving mercy, may you taste and see the goodness of God and proclaim God's holy word. ***Amen.***

On the Hands: Through this holy anointing ✠ and through God's most loving mercy, may you feel the hand of God heal you. ***Amen.***

On the Feet: Through this holy anointing ✠ and through God's most loving mercy, may you rise from this sickness to walk with God. *Amen.*

Song: On Eagle's Wings

Refrain: And He will raise you up, on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn.
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hands.

Prayer after Anointing

Beloved and Eternal God, through this holy anointing grant *N.* comfort in his/her suffering. When he/she is afraid, give him/her courage, when afflicted, give him/her patience, when dejected, afford him/her hope, and when alone, assure him/her of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Benediction

May the Source of all love bless you in every way and grant you hope all the days of your life. May God restore you to health according to God's perfect plan for you. May the Most Holy One fill your heart with peace and lead you to eternal life. May Almighty God, the ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you. *Amen.*

Order of Service for Communion

May God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you.

Response: And also with you.


Confession

In preparation for the celebration of the mystery of Christ's love, let us pray to our compassionate Creator who welcomes our reconciliation. In the silence of our hearts, we call to mind those times we have chosen darkness over light and sin over virtue. Let us confess:

I know indeed that your love and mercy are eternal.

*Put forth to me the power of your love
and enfold me in your embrace.*

*Create a clean heart within me, O God,
so that it may become your chosen shelter
and the resting place of the Holy Spirit.*

*I make the cross of Christ upon my breast 
over the tablet of my heart,
and I ask you, God of the universe,
may the Light of lights come into my heart
so that I may live in the power of your love.*

OR

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart. Lord have mercy:

Response: Lord, have mercy

You came to call sinners. Christ have mercy:

Response: Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us.
Lord have mercy:

Response: Lord, have mercy

Bestow the rich blessings of your forgiveness upon us, Jesus glorious Savior, and fill us with love that we may do the will of God on earth as the angels and saints do in heaven. *Amen.*

OR

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. *Amen.*

Doxology

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

A Gospel Reading

John 6:51-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

B Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:26-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit

of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us offer together the prayer our Jesus taught us:

*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
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]*

The Lamb of God, heals the brokenness in our lives. Happy are we who are called to this supper.

*Response: Lord Jesus,
through your love and compassion,
grace and mercy,
we are healed and whole,
made worthy to receive you.*

Reception of the Eucharist

The Body of Christ. *Amen.*

The Blood of Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer after Communion

Merciful and Eternal God, we give you thanks for your heavenly bread and the fruit of the vine which brings us to life eternal. Transform us that we may be Christ in the world for others. Feed and nourish our spirits and draw us into yourself.

Divine Beloved, fill us, and all who seek to serve you, with your Spirit, that by your grace, we may become your healing hands in this world. Remember your people, O God, and heal us from all that keeps us from uniting in the Light. We make our prayer through Christ, your Son and our Lord. *Amen.*

Benediction

May the Source of all love bless you in every way and grant you hope all the days of your life. May God restore you to health according to God's perfect plan for you. May the Most Holy One fill your heart with peace and lead you to eternal life. In the name of the ✠ Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Rites of Christian Initiation

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

The Invocation

In the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dear Ones, we administer the sacrament of Holy Baptism, that the people of God may give welcome and blessing to him/her that his/

her soul may dwell in a purified body, sanctified and set apart for the service of God.

Therefore, I pray you to join with me in this holy rite, whereby this candidate shall be made partaker of all heavenly gifts and a member of the Mystical Body of Christ. **N.**, if then you desire to enter into life, keep this commandment: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.'

The celebrant places her right hand on the head of the candidate, and says:

Let us pray. O Beloved, shine a ray of your light upon **N.** open to him/her the gate of your glory, that being replenished with the spirit of your wisdom and strengthened by your mighty power, s/he may joyfully serve you in the course you have appointed for her/him.

The celebrant blows gently into the candidate's face, and says:

Go forth from him/her, unclean spirit, and give place to the Holy Spirit. Loving Creator, watch over this child and guide him/her in your ways. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The celebrant traces the sign of the cross with her thumb upon the candidate's forehead and breast, saying:

Receive the sign of the cross upon your forehead and upon your heart. Know that you are bound now by a heavenly rule of life, and let your conduct beginning today reflect that you are a living temple of God.

Let us pray. Hear our prayer, Most Holy One, and guard your chosen friend **N.** May your strength never fail him/her now, for we have traced upon him/her the sign of Christ's cross. May s/he always remember what s/he learns of your greatness, and your

glory. May s/he keep your commandments and be worthy of the glory of new life in you.

Open to him/her, Beloved, the door of your mercy, as s/he serves you happily in your Church and grows holier with each passing day.

Source of Life and Goodness give to his/her soul food in abundance, that s/he may be eager, hopeful and lighthearted in the service of your Name. Lead him/her we pray, to the waters of new life, that, with all who are faithful to you, s/he may merit the eternal rewards you have promised.

Enlighten him/her in your goodness with the light of your own understanding. Cleanse him/her and sanctify him/her, give him/her true knowledge; that made worthy by the grace of Baptism, s/he may be endowed with unwavering hope, sound judgment and a firm grasp of holy doctrine. Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen

The celebrant places the left-hand end of the stole upon the candidate

N, come into the temple of the God that you may enjoy your rightful spiritual inheritance, eternal life.

By God's grace you have been called to become a temple of the living God that the Holy Spirit may dwell in you.

The celebrant touches the candidate's ears and nostrils, first the right and then the left ear while saying: Ephpheta, which is: Be open to the sweet fragrance of God's love for you.

The celebrant anoints the candidate upon the breast and between the shoulders in the form of a cross with the Oil of Catechumens, saying:

God said through the Prophet Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.” (Jer 1:5)

In the name of the Christ, I ~~XXXX~~ anoint you with oil for your safeguarding; may your holy angel be with you at all times, that you may have eternal life. *Amen.*

The Profession of Faith

N., do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Candidate: I do believe.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was born into this world and who suffered for us?

Candidate: I do believe.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Christ's Holy Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

Candidate: I do believe.

N., is it your desire that you be baptized?

Candidate: Yes.

The Baptism

While the godparents place their hand upon the shoulder of the candidate the celebrant pours water over the candidate's head three times while saying:

N., I baptize you in the name of the ✠ Father and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy ✠ Spirit. *Amen.*

The Anointing with Chrism & Rite of Confirmation

The celebrant anoints the candidate on the crown of the head in the form of a cross with Sacred Chrism while saying:

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you new life through water and the Holy Spirit, and strengthens you with grace against the effects of the brokenness in our human nature ✠

(the candidate is anointed here), anoints you with Sacred Chrism in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, that you may have eternal life.

N., now seals with the gift of the Holy Spirit and strengthens you with this sign of new life and love as you grow in knowledge and love, and follow the Master Christ Jesus.

Peace be with you.

Response: And also with you.

The Reception

I receive this man/woman/child into communion with Christ's Holy Church and do ✠ sign him/her with the sign of the cross in token that s/he is a child of God and is loved and cherished by the Most Holy One.

Naming Ceremony and Commendation for Infant/Child Demise

Greeting

If the family is Catholic, Christian Orthodox, Anglican/Episcopal or Lutheran, begin with the Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us praise our loving God of peace and consolation. Blessed be God forever.

Opening Prayer

[Addressing parents, loved ones, by name] N., and N., as we mourn the death of your child we place ourselves into the hands of God asking for strength, healing, consolation, and love.

Let us pray. Author of Life, we place our trust in you, confident that in the pain of this sorrow, there is consolation, in this time of loss, there is hope, in the midst of this death, there is eternal life.

Help us to learn from the example of Mary, who grieved beside the cross of her Son, Jesus in whose name we make our prayer.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Reader: A reading from the gospel according to Mark ✠

(Mk 10:13-16)

[if one of the alternate readings are used, the above is changed to as is appropriate to the chosen reading.]

Jesus...said to the disciples, 'Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God

like a child will not enter it.' Then he embraced the children and blessed the, placing his hands on them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[Alternate readings:]

Isaiah 49:8-13 ~ On the day of salvation I help you

⁸Thus says the LORD: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages;⁹saying to the prisoners, "Come out," to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves." They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; ¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. ¹¹And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up.¹²Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.

¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

Romans 8:18-27 ~ In hope we were saved

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the

first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:26-31 ~ If God is for us, who can be against us?

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

Colossians 1:9-12 ~ We have been praying for you unceasingly]

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the

knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Naming of the Child

What name do you give your child?

Parent(s): **N.** _____

In the name of the Christian community I sign **N.**_____ with the ✠ Sign of the Cross and I invite you to do the same. *[leader traces the cross on or over the body and invites those present to do the same.]*

Let us pray to our Heavenly Father who, throughout the ages, has heard the cries of parents:

Compassionate and Eternal Reality, God of all creation, we praise and thank you for your tender care. We pray that you give happiness forever to **N.**_____ whom you created in love. This we ask through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Commendation

Jesus, Tender Shepherd, receive **N.**_____ into your care and cradle him / her in your love. Bless him / her and take him / her to the place you have prepared for him / her. Send the your Holy Spirit to comfort the hearts of his / her parent(s) and loved ones. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

*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
and the power and the glory forever and ever.] Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Let us pray: Most Holy One, author and sustainer of our lives, you are our final home. Strengthen the bonds of this family [and our community]. Enlighten and confirm us in our faith, give hope to our hearts and love to our lives so that we may bear your peace to one another and one day stand together with all the saints who praise you and your saving help. Comfort our hearts with the hope that **N.** lives and one day we will live with you. Through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

Marriage Rite and Renewal of Marriage Vows

CONVALIDATION RITE

Bride: I, **N.**, take you **Groom N.** to be my husband,
my partner in life,
and my one true love.
I will cherish our union

and love you more each day
than I did the day before.
I will trust you and respect you,
laugh with you and cry with you,
loving you faithfully
through the good times and bad,
regardless of the obstacles
we may face together.
I give you my hand, my heart, and my love,
from this day forward
for as long as we both shall live.

Groom: I, **N.**, take you **Bride N.** to be my wife,
my partner in life,
and my one true love.
I will cherish our union
and love you more each day
than I did the day before.
I will trust you and respect you,
laugh with you
and cry with you,
loving you faithfully
through the good times and bad,
regardless of the obstacles
we may face together.
I give you my hand, my heart, and my love,
from this day forward
for as long as we both shall live.

Blessing and Exchange of the Rings

May I have the rings, please.

May God bless these rings, which you give to each other as the sign of your love and fidelity in the Name of the Father ☩ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Bride: Because this ring is perfectly symmetrical, it signifies the perfection of true love.

As I place it on your finger,
I give you all that I am and ever hope to be.

Groom: Because this ring has no end or beginning, it signifies the continuation of true love.

As I place it on your finger,
I give you all that I am and ever hope to be.

Nuptial Blessing

Bride N. and **Groom N.**, bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May you be blessed with hope enough
to keep the dawn in your love,
and fear enough
to keep you holding hands in the dark.
May you be blessed with unity enough
to keep your roots entwined,
and separation enough
to keep you reaching out for each other.
May you be blessed with harmony enough
to keep romance in your song,
and discord enough
to keep you tuning your love
today and always.

And may Almighty God the Father, ✠ the Son,
and Holy Spirit bless you today and always. *Amen.*

By the authority vested in me by Christ's Holy Church, it is my honor and my delight to now pronounce you husband and wife. You may seal your covenant with a kiss.

RENEWAL OF VOWS

Wife N. and **Husband N.**, When you first joined hands and hearts in marriage [number] years ago, you did not know where life would take you.

You promised to love, honor and cherish one another through all things. Life has surely brought you both wonderful blessings and difficult challenges over the years.

But here you are today, having fulfilled the vows to love, honor and cherish you each made on your wedding day.

As you celebrate here today, and reflect back over all the years as husband and wife, do you now wish to reaffirm the vows you took [number] years ago?

Response: WE DO

Vows

Husband N., will you continue to have **Wife N.** as your wife and continue to live in this happy and loving marriage?

Husband: I WILL

Do you reaffirm your love for her, and will you love, honor and cherish her in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, for better, for worse, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her for as long as you both shall live?

Husband: I DO

Wife N., will you continue to have **Husband N.** as your husband and continue to live in this happy and loving marriage?

Wife: I WILL

Do you reaffirm your love for him, and will you love, honor and cherish him in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, for better, for worse, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him for as long as you both shall live?

Wife: I DO

Blessing of the Rings

Wife N. and **Husband N.**, On your wedding day you exchanged rings as a symbol of the never-ending circle that symbolizes the eternal quality of God, unending strength, and unending love.

May you always wear your rings as a reminder of your wedding vows to each other, and your commitment to continue to live in unity, love and happiness.

May God bless these rings [in the Name of the Father ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit] and the two who exchanged them in love on their wedding day. Keep **Wife N.** and **Husband N.** safe in the circle of your protection and love.

Nuptial Blessing

May you be blessed with hope enough
to keep the dawn in your love,
and fear enough
to keep you holding hands in the dark.
May you be blessed with unity enough
to keep your roots entwined,
and separation enough
to keep you reaching out for each other.
May you be blessed with harmony enough
to keep romance in your song,
and discord enough
to keep you tuning your love
today and always.

[And may Almighty God the Father, ✠ the Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you today and always. *Amen.*]

Pronouncement

Wife N. and **Husband N.** today you have renewed the vows you made to each other on your wedding day. By the joining of hands, the taking of vows, and by the blessing of your rings. I thank you for allowing me to witness this renewal ceremony and I invite you to reaffirm your love as husband and wife with a sign of affection....You may kiss!

Common Blessings

The Order of Blessing Water

The Celebrant, vested in surplice and violet stole, says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

Exorcism of the Salt

I exorcise you, O creature of salt, by the living God, ✠ by the true God, ✠ by the holy God, ✠ by the God who commanded you to be cast into the water by Eliseus the Prophet, that the barrenness of the same might be healed; that you become salt for the preservation of them that believe, and be to all who take your salvation of soul and body; and from the place wherein you shall be sprinkled let every delusion and wickedness of the devil, and all unclean spirits, fly and depart when adjured by the One who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We humbly implore your boundless clemency, Almighty and Everlasting God, that of your bounty you would deign to bless ✠ and sanctify ✠ this creature of salt, which you have given for the use of your children; let it be unto all who take it health of mind and body; that whatsoever shall be touched or sprinkled with it be freed from all manner of uncleanness, and from all assaults of spiritual wickedness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, etc. *Amen.*

Exorcism of Water

I exorcise you, O creature of water, in the name of God ✠ the Father Almighty; and in the name of Jesus Christ, ✠ His Son, our Lord; and in the power of the Holy ✠ Spirit; that you may become water exorcised for the chasing away of all the power of the enemy; that you may have strength to uproot and cast out the enemy himself and his apostate angels, by the power of the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O God, who for the salvation of your children have founded one of your greatest Sacraments in the element of water, graciously give ear when we call upon you, and pour upon this element, prepared for divers purifications, the power of your ✠ blessing; let your creature serving in your Mysteries, by Divine grace be effectual for casting out devils and for driving away diseases, that on whatsoever in the houses or places of the faithful this water shall be sprinkled, it may be freed from all uncleanness, and delivered from hurt. Let not the blast of pestilence nor diseases remain there; let every enemy that lies in wait depart; and if there be aught which has ill-will to the safety and quietness of the inhabitants, let it flee away at the sprinkling of this water, that they, being healed by the invocation of your holy name, may be

defended from all that rise up against them. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, etc. *Amen.*

The Celebrant mingles salt with water three times in the form of a Cross, saying once:

Let this become a mixture of salt and water, in the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy ✠ Spirit. *Amen.*

May God be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, Author of invincible might, Sovereign of unconquerable dominion, and ever a Conqueror who performs wonders, who puts down the strength of all that rise up against you; who overcomes the rage of the adversary; who by your power casts down his wickedness; we, O Creator, with fear and trembling humbly entreat and implore you to mercifully look upon this creature of salt and water, to graciously illumine and sanctify it with the dew of your favor; that wherever it shall be sprinkled, by the invocation of your holy name all troubling of unclean spirits may be cast out, and the dread of the poisonous serpent be chased far away; and let the presence of the Holy Spirit vouchsafe to be with us, who ask your mercy in every place. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, etc. *Amen.*

Exorcism for Oil (Olive)

Our help is in the name of God.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

O oil, creature of God, I exorcise you by God the Father ✠ almighty, who made heaven and earth and sea, and all that they contain. Let the adversary's power, the devil's legions, and all of Satan's

attacks and machinations be dispelled and driven far from this creature, oil. Let it bring health in body and mind to all who use it, in the name of God ✠ the Father almighty, and of our Lord Jesus ✠ Christ, God's Son, and of the Holy ✠ Spirit, as well as in the love of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is coming to judge both the living and the dead and the world by fire. *Amen.*

O God hear my prayer.

Response: And let my cry come to you.

May God be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Let us pray.

Creator God, before whom the hosts of angels stand in awe, and whose heavenly service we acknowledge; may it please you to regard favorably and to bless ✠ and hallow ✠ this creature, oil, which by your power has been pressed from the juice of olives. You have ordained it for anointing the sick, so that, when they are made well, they may give thanks to you, the living and true God. Grant we pray, that those who will use this oil, which we are blessing ✠ in your name, may be protected from every attack of the unclean spirit, and be delivered from all suffering, all infirmity, and all wiles of the enemy. Let it be a means of averting any kind of adversity from your children, redeemed by the precious blood of your Son, so that they may never again suffer the sting of the ancient serpent. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing Of A House

The Celebrant, having vested, formally enters the house and says
Peace be to this house and to all that dwell herein.

The Celebrant draws a line with holy water at the entrance and says:

We pray to you, O God, to bless this doorway by your mighty power that those who enter here may leave behind them all unworthy thoughts and feeling, and that your children who dwell in this place may ever serve you in peace and holiness of life through Christ our Lord. ~*Amen*

The Celebrant then goes to all other entrances to the house (including windows) and draws a line of holy water before each, repeating the same prayer. The Celebrant scatters incense over lighted coals in the thurible and pronounces the blessing

Be blessed by God in whose honor you shall be burned.

Attended by one bearing the censer and another the aspergillum, the Celebrant sprinkles the various rooms with holy water. (Other attendants may participate by sprinkling blessed sea salt in all the hidden places and by ringing a bell three times in each room.)

O God, who in your providence has appointed a wondrous ministry of Angels, we pray you to send down your holy Angel to ✠ bless and to ✠ hallow this house, that they who dwell in it may live in the power and love of Christ our Lord and Master, and may continually serve you in all good works through Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Exorcism Of An Object

Our help is in the name of God.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

May God be with you.

Response: And also with you.

In the Name of God, I exorcize all influences of evil that they may be banished and driven forth from this/these, which we are

about to dedicate to God's service. In the power of the ✠ Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy ✠ Spirit. *Amen.*

The object is now sprinkled with holy water and censed.

Let us pray

O God, at your word all things are made holy. Pour your blessing upon this/these ... which you have made. Grant that whoever gratefully makes use of it/them according to your will and law may, by calling on your holy name, receive from you health of body and salvation of soul, through Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Interfaith Prayers and Readings

SERENITY PRAYER

God grant me the serenity,
To accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
Taking, as you did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
Trusting that you will make all things right
if I surrender to your will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with you forever in the next.

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

PRAYER OF FAITH

We trust that beyond absence there is a presence.
That beyond the pain there can be healing.
That beyond the brokenness there can be wholeness.
That beyond the anger there may be peace.
That beyond the hurting there may be forgiveness.
That beyond the silence there may be the word.
That beyond the word there may be understanding.
That through understanding there is love.

Author Unknown

WILD GEESE

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair,
yours,
and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on...
Meanwhile the wild geese,
high in the clear blue air are heading home again.
Whoever you are,
no matter how lonely,
The world offers itself to your imagination,
Calls you like the wild geese,
harsh and exciting—
Over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

Mary Oliver

You are holy, Lord, the only God,

And your deeds are wonderful.
You are strong.
 You are great.
 You are the Most High,
 You are almighty.
 You, Holy Father, are King of heaven and earth.
You are Three and One,
 Lord God, all good.
You are Good, all Good, supreme Good,
 Lord God, living and true.
You are love,
 You are wisdom.
 You are humility,
 You are endurance.
 You are rest,
 You are peace.
 You are joy and gladness.
 You are justice and moderation.
 You are all our riches,
 And you suffice for us.
You are beauty
 You are gentleness.
 You are our protector,
 You are our guardian and defender.
 You are courage.
 You are our haven and our hope.
You are our faith,
 Our great consolation.
 You are our eternal life.
 Great and wonderful Lord,
 God almighty,
 Merciful Savior.

St. Francis of Assisi

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

We struggle against death with all our force, for it is our fundamental duty as living creatures to do so. But when, by virtue of the state of things, death comes, we experience that paradox of faith that causes us to abandon the struggle and affirm death as part of a greater plan for the universe as a whole.

To love life so much, and to trust it so completely that we can affirm it even in its final act....this is [an] attitude that can calm and fortify us.

The end is to love extravagantly the life that is greater than any one of us, seeing our own death as a physically necessary passage toward union with a greater wholeness.

Teilhard deChardin

Prayers for the Dying

Catholic

God of all Creation, be with us now and at the hour of our death. Shelter us from harms' way and lead us on the path to eternal life. Receive our life, all that we are, and everything we do. May the Angel of Mercy stay near us this day and always. *Amen.*

Short Texts

One or more of the following short texts may be recited with the dying person. If necessary, they may be softly repeated two or three times:

Who can separate us from the love of Christ? *Romans 8:35*

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. *Romans 14:8*

We have an everlasting home in heaven. *2 Corinthians 5:1*
We shall be with the Lord forever. *1 Thessalonians 4:17*

We shall see God as he really is. *1 John 3:2*

We have passed from death to life because we love each other.
1 John 3:14

To you, Lord, I lift up my soul. *Psalms 25:1*

The Lord is my light and my salvation. *Psalms 27:1*
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. *Psalms 27:13*

My soul thirsts for the living God. *Psalms 42:2*

Though I walk in the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. *Psalm 23:4*

"In my Father's home there are many dwelling places," says the Lord Jesus. *John 14:2*

"Come, blessed of my Father," says the Lord Jesus, "and take possession of the kingdom prepared for you." *Matthew 25:33*

The Lord Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in paradise."
Luke 23:43

The Lord Jesus says, "I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come again to take you to myself." *John 14:2-3*

"I desire that where I am, they also may be with me," says the Lord Jesus. *John 17:24*

"Everyone who believes in the Son has eternal life" says the Lord Jesus. *John 6:40*

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit. *Psalm 31:5*

Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Holy Mary, pray for him/her.

Saint Joseph, pray for him/her.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist him/her in his/her last agony.

Biblical Readings

The word of God is proclaimed by one of those present or by the minister. Selections may be made from the following.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible

recompense. He will come and save you.” ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Isaiah 35:3-4, 6c-7

²³“O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! ²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; ²⁶and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Job 19:23-27a

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

¹¹For your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Psalms 25:1, 5-11

¹When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, ²Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

³The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

⁴The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

⁵Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

⁶O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob, ⁸who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water. *Psalm 114*

³The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴Then I called on the name of the LORD:

"O LORD, I pray, save my life!"

⁵Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

Psalm 116:3-5

Litany of the Saints

When the condition of the dying person calls for the use of brief forms of prayer, those who are present are encouraged to pray the Litany of the Saints – or at least some of its invocations – for him or her. Special mention may be made of the patron saints of the dying person, of the family, and of the parish. The litany may be said or sung in the usual way. Other customary prayers, also, may be used.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
Holy Angels of God, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
Abraham, our father in faith...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
David, leader of God's people...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
All holy patriarchs and prophets, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. John the Baptizer...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Joseph,...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Peter and St. Paul...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Andrew...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. John, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Mary Magdalene,...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Stephen, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Ignatius, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Lawrence, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Perpetual and St. Felicity, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Agnes, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Gregory, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Augustine, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Athanasius, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Basil, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Martin, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Benedict, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Francis and St. Dominic, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Francis Xavier, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. John Vianney, ...	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Catherine,	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
St. Teresa,	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
<i>(Other saints may be included here.)</i>	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>
All holy men and women,	<i>Pray for him/her.</i>

Lord, be merciful,	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
From all evil,	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
From every sin,	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
From Satan's power,	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
At the moment of death,	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
On the day of judgment,	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
By your Incarnation,	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
By your suffering and cross,	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
By your death and rising to new life, ...	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
By your return in glory to the Father, ...	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
By your gift of the Holy Spirit, ...	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
By your coming again in glory,	<i>Lord, save your people.</i>
Be merciful to us sinners;	<i>Lord, hear our prayer.</i>
Bring N. to eternal life, first promised to him/her	
in Baptism,	<i>Lord, hear our prayer.</i>
Raise N. on the last day, for he/she has shared in your	
suffering and death;	<i>Lord, hear our prayer.</i>
Jesus, Son of the living God,	<i>Lord, hear our prayer.</i>
Christ, hear us.	<i>Christ, hear us.</i>
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.	<i>Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.</i>

Prayer of Commendation

When the moment of death seems near, the follow prayer may be said:

A. I commend you, my dear brother/sister, to almighty God and entrust you to your Creator.

May you return to the One who formed you
from the dust of the earth.

May holy Mary, the angels, and all the saints come to meet

you as you go forth from this life.
May Christ, who was crucified for you,
bring you freedom and peace.
May Christ, who died for you,
admit you into his garden of paradise.
May Christ, the true Shepherd,
acknowledge you as one of his flock.
May he forgive all your sins
and set you among those he has chosen.
May you see your Redeemer face to face
and enjoy the vision of God for ever. *Amen.*

B. Go forth, Christian soul, out of this world in the name of Almighty God, who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ, who suffered for you; in the name of the Holy Spirit, who sanctified you; in the name of the holy and glorious Mary, Virgin and Mother of God; in the name of the Angels, Archangels, and all the Saints. Go forth. May you be with Christ our Lord in Paradise this day. *Amen.*

Saying “Thank you” and “Good-bye”

N. thank you for all you have given me, your family, friends, and the world. You have impacted my life with your love, your caring and your wisdom. I will carry all your love and everything I learned from you within me. The essence of who you are as a person will live within me and within others. You will continue to give to the world as we pass on to others what we learned from you. I will miss you, but will have joy in remembering all you meant to me. Each thing you touched will bring you to mind. Your laugh, your smile, your words will resound in my mind and heart. Good-bye dear one.

Helen Meier, Hope Hospice, Dublin, CA

Can you be with me in the cold morning of dying?

When the fire in me is out and nothing warms by blood
Can you watch with the eye of a mother?
When the candle is burnt and the friends have gone?
Can you just be, not wishing one more breath in me?
And when my eyes are closed shut,
Glad of the long quiet rest
Will you then travel still with me?
As I close this door behind
And open into the open heart of death
Sweet love call that brought me birth,
Now calls me safely back in earth.

Anonymous
Translated from Old Gaelic

O God, early in the morning I cry to you.
Help me to pray
And to concentrate my thoughts on you:
I cannot do this alone.
In me there is darkness,
But with you there is light;
I am lonely, but you do not leave me;
I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help;
I am restless, but with you there is peace.
In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience;
I do not understand your ways,
But you know the way for me...
Restore me to liberty,
And enable me so to live now
That I may answer before you and before me.
Lord, whatever this day may bring,
Your name be praised.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Jewish

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is One. Blessed is the Name of His glorious kingdom for all eternity.

May it be your will, O Lord our God, to grant us long life, a life of peace, a life of good, a life of blessing, a life of sustenance, a life of health, a life in which there is fear of sin, a life free from shame and confusion, a life of riches and honor, a life in which we may be filled with the love of Torah and the fear of heaven, a life in which You will fulfill all the desires of our heart for good!

Berakoth

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who makes the bands of sleep to fall upon my eyes, and slumber upon my eyelids. May it be Your will, O Lord my God and God of my fathers, to suffer me to lie down in peace and to let me rise up again in peace. Let not my thoughts trouble me, nor evil dreams, nor evil desires, but let my rest be perfect before You. O lighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, for it is You who gives light to the apple of the eye. Blessed are You, O Lord, Who gives light to the whole world in Your glory.

Berakoth

Cause us, our Father, to lie down in peace, and rise again to enjoy life. Spread over us the covering of Your peace, guide us with Your good counsel and save us for the sake of Your name. Be a shield about us, turning away every enemy, disease, violence, hunger and sorrow. Shelter us in the shadow of Your wings, for You are a God who guards and protects us, a ruler of mercy and compassion. Guard us when we go out and when we come in, to enjoy life and peace both now and forever, and spread over us the shelter of Your peace. Blessed are You Lord, who spreads the shelter of peace over us, over His people Israel, and over all the world.

Daily prayers

Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, and God of our fathers, God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, God beyond, generous in love and kindness, and possessing all. He remembers the good deeds of our fathers, and therefore in love brings rescue to the generations, for such is His being. The king who helps and saves and shields. Blessed are You Lord, the shield of Abraham. You, O Lord, are the endless power that renews life beyond death; You are the greatness that saves. You care for the living with love. You renew life beyond death with unending mercy. You support the falling, and heal the sick. You free prisoners, and keep faith with those who sleep in the dust. Who can perform such mighty deeds, and who can compare with You, a King who brings death and life, and renews salvation. You are faithful to renew life beyond death. Blessed are You Lord, who renews life beyond death.

Daily prayers

Heal us, Lord, and we shall be healed; save us, and we shall be saved; for it is You we praise. Send relief and healing for all our diseases, our sufferings and our wounds; for You are a merciful and faithful healer. Blessed are you Lord, who heals the sick.

Daily prayers

Final Confessional Prayer: Viddui

My God and God of the fathers and mothers, may my prayer come before You. Do not ignore my plea. Please, forgive me for all of the sins that I sinned before You throughout my lifetime. I am ashamed of deeds that I have committed. I regret things that I have done.

Now, O God, take my pain and suffering as atonement. Forgive my mistakes, for against You have I sinned. May it be Your will,

Adonai, my God and God of my ancestors that I sin no more. In Your great mercy, cleanse me of the sins I have committed, but not through suffering and disease. Send me a complete healing along with all those who are ill.

I acknowledge before You, Adonai my God and God of my ancestors, that my healing and my death are in Your hands. May it be Your will to grant me a complete healing.

If it be Your will that I am to die of this illness, let my death be atonement for all the wrongs that I have done in my life. Shelter me in the shadow of Your wings. Grant me a place in the world to come.

Parent of orphans and Guardian of widows, protect my dear ones, with whose souls my soul is bound.

Into your hand I place my soul. You have redeemed me, O God of truth.

Shema Yisrael, Adonai Elohenu Adonai Echad.

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.

Adonai Hu Ha'Elohim. Adonai Hu Ha'Elohim.

Adonai is God. Adonai is God.

Translated by Rabbi Amy Eilberg

*Excerpted with permission from Saying Kaddish:
How to Comfort the Dying, Bury*

Native American/First Nation

O, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I come before you, one of your many children. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made, my ears sharp to hear your voice. make me wise, so that I may know the things you have taught my people, the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy: myself. Make me ever ready to come to you, with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades as a fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Yellow Lark, Sioux Chief

May there be peace in the higher regions; may there be peace in the firmament; may there be peace on earth. May the waters flow peacefully; may the herbs and plants grow peacefully; may all the divine powers bring unto us peace. The supreme Lord is peace. May we all be in peace, peace, and only peace; and may that peace come unto each of us.

Muslim

O my God, my unworthiness is clear enough to You. The state I'm in is not concealed from You. My request is that I might draw near to You, that I might have Your directive. Guide me then to Yourself by Your own light. Make me to stand in the truth of servanthood within Your hands.

My prayer to You is through the hiddenness of Your gentleness, the gentleness of Your way of dealing, through the very beauty of Your elusiveness, through the greatness of Your might and the utter secret of Your power, by all that is untold in Your transcendence.

I have taken Your Name for my citadel and pleaded the intercession of Your messenger Muhammad – the blessing and peace of God be upon him. *Ahmad al-Tijani*

Our Father in heaven, may Your name be sanctified; Your commandment stretches over heaven and earth, may Your compassion come upon earth as it is in heaven. Forgive us our sin and wrongdoings, You the Lord of all good things; cause Your mercy to descend upon us, Your healing upon this sickness, and it will be healed. *Hadith al-Ruqya*

O Lord, may the end of my life be the best of it; may my closing acts be my best acts, and may the best of my days be the day when I will meet You. *Closing Muslim prayer*

Christian

Do not fear the changes of life, rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them. He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in His arms. Do not be afraid of what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

St. Francis de Sales

God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. Therefore, I will trust Him.

Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about.

John Henry Cardinal Newman

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine One,

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled, as to console,

To be understood, as to understand,

To be loved, as to love,

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi

My Father, I abandon myself to you. Do with me as you will. Whatever you may do with me, I thank you. I am prepared for anything, I accept everything. Provided your will is fulfilled in me and in all creatures I ask for nothing more my God. I place my soul in your hands. I give it to you, my God, with all the love of my heart because I love you. And for me it is a necessity of love, this gift of myself, this placing of myself in your hands without reserve In boundless confidence because you are my Father.

Charles de Foucauld

O Lord, you have made us very small, and we bring our years to an end like a tale that is told; help us to remember that beyond our brief day is the eternity of your love. *Reinhold Niebuhr*

Prayers for Caregivers

Lord, my heart is not large enough,
My memory is not good enough,
My will is not strong enough:
Take my heart and enlarge it,
Take my memory and give it quicker recall,
Take my will and make it strong
And make me conscious of you
Ever-present,
Ever-accompanying.
George Appleton

O God, I know that if I do not love you with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul and with all my strength, I will love something else with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. Grant that putting you first in all my lovings I may be liberated from all lesser loves and loyalties, and have you as my first love, my chiefest good and my final joy.

Grant me, O Lord, an understanding heart, that I may see into the hearts of your people, and know their strengths and weaknesses, their hopes and despairs, their efforts and failures, their need of love and their need to love. Through my touch with them grant comfort and hope and the assurance that now life begins at any age and on any day, redeeming the past, sanctifying the present and brightening the future with the assurance of your unfailing love and grace brought to us in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

George Appleton

We give back, to you, O God, those whom you gave to us. You did not lose them when you gave them to us, and we do not lose them by their return to you. Your dear Son has taught us that life is eternal and love cannot die. So death is only a horizon, and a horizon is only the limit of our sight. Open our eyes to see more clearly, and draw us closer to you that we may know that we are nearer to our loved ones, who are with you. You have told us that you are preparing a place for us: prepare us also for that happy place, that where you are we may also be always, O dear Lord of life and death.

William Penn

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous;
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labor and not to seek reward,
Save that of knowing that I do your will.

St. Ignatius Loyola

O eternal God, who has made all things for human beings, and human beings for your glory, sanctify my body and soul, my thoughts and my intentions, my words and actions, that whatsoever I shall think, or speak, or do, may be by me designed to the glorification of your name; and by your blessing it may be effective and successful in the work of God, according as it can be capable. Lord, turn my necessities into virtue; the works of nature into the works of grace, by making them orderly, regular, temperate, subordinate, and profitable to ends beyond their own proper efficacy; and let no pride or self-seeking, no covetousness or revenge, no impure mixture or unhandsome purposes, no little ends or low imaginations, pollute my spirit, and unhallow any of my words and actions: but let my body be a servant to my spirit, and both body and spirit servants of Jesus, that, doing all things

for your glory here, I may be a partaker of your glory hereafter,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Jeremy Taylor*

O Lord God, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, open our eyes that we may behold your fatherly presence ever around us. Draw our hearts to you with the power of your love. Teach us to be careful for nothing, and when we have done what you have given us to do, help us, O God, our Savior, to leave the issue to your wisdom. Take from us all doubt and distrust. Lift our thoughts up to you in heaven, and make us to know that all things are possible to us through your Son, our Redeemer.

Bishop Brooke Foss Westcott

Lord, comfort the sick, the hungry, the lonely and those who are hurt and shut in on themselves, by your presence in their hearts; use us to help them in a practical way. Show us how to set about this and give us strength, tact and compassion. Teach us how to be alongside them, and how to share in their distress deeply in our prayer. Make us open to them and give us courage to suffer with them, and that in so doing we share with you in the suffering of the world for we are your body on earth and you work through us.

Michael Hollings and Etta Gullick

Grant peace and eternal rest to the departed, but especially to the millions known and unknown who died as prisoners in many lands, victims of the hatred and cruelty of man. May the example of their suffering and courage draw us closer to you through your own agony and passion, and thus strengthen us in our desire to serve you in the sick, the unwanted and the dying wherever we may find them. Give us the grace so to spend ourselves for those who are still alive, that we may prove most truly that we have not forgotten those who died.

Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire

Dearest Lord, may I see you today and every day in the person of your sick, and while nursing them minister unto you.

Though you hide yourself behind the unattractive disguise of the irritable, the exacting, the unreasonable, may I still recognize you and say: 'Jesus, my patient, how sweet it is to serve you.'

Lord, give me this seeing faith, then my work will never be monotonous. I will ever find joy in humoring the fancies and gratifying the wishes of all poor sufferers.

O beloved sick, how doubly dear you are to me, when you personify Christ; and what a privilege is mine to be allowed to tend you.

Sweetest Lord, make me appreciative of the dignity of my high vocation, and its many responsibilities. Never permit me to disgrace it by giving way to coldness, unkindness, or impatience.

And, O God, while you are Jesus, my patient, deign also to be to me a patient Jesus, bearing with my faults, looking only to my intention, which is to love and serve you in the person of each of your sick.

Lord, increase my faith; bless my efforts and work, now and for evermore.

Daily prayer of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

O gracious God, giver of all hope and comfort, you have called us here to be the companions of those who are making their way home. As you draw them into your healing light, with that healing light, touch us also. Transform our knowledge into vision, our skill into comfort, our pain into compassion, and our grief into love;

that those who go before us may leave in dignity and peace, and that we may grow in gratitude. Amen. *Unity Hospice*

Prayers for the Time of Death

Catholic

He Accepted Them As A Holocaust

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

The following prayers may be prayed immediately after death and may be repeated in the hours that follow.

Saints of God, come to his/her aid! Come to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!

Response: Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself; may angels lead you to Abraham's side.

Response: Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Give him/her eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on him/her forever.

Response: Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Let us pray. All-powerful and merciful God, we commend to you, **N.**, your servant. In your mercy and love, blot out all the sins he/she has committed through human weakness. In this world he/she has died: let him/her live with you forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.


Response: And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace. ***Amen.***

May his/her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ***Amen.***

Gathering in the Presence of the Body

When the family first gathers around the body, before or after it is prepared for burial, all or some of the following prayers may be used. It is most fitting that family members take part in preparing the body for burial.

In the name of the Father,  and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Reader: Jesus says: "Come to me, all you who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."

The body may be sprinkled with holy water.

The Lord God lives in his holy temple and yet abides in our midst. Since in baptism **N.** became God's temple and the Spirit of God lived in him/her, with reverence we bless his/her mortal body.

The Lord's Prayer

With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us:

*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
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]*

Into your hands, O Lord we humbly entrust our brother/sister **N.** In this life you embraced him/her with your tender love; deliver him/her now from every evil and bid him/her enter eternal rest. The old order has passed away: welcome him/her then 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 forever and ever. *Amen.*

All may sign the forehead of the deceased with the sign of the cross.

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

Response: And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace. *Amen.*

May his/her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Prayers for Mourners

Lord, God you are attentive to the voice of our pleading. Let us find in your Son comfort in our sadness, certainty in our doubt, and courage to live through this hour. Make our faith strong through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord, **N.** is gone now from this earthly dwelling, and has left behind those who mourn his/her absence. Grant that we may hold his/her memory dear, never bitter for what we have lost nor in regret for the past, but always in hope of the eternal kingdom where you will bring us together again. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Those Who Mourn the Death of a Child

Lord, whose ways are beyond understanding, listen to the prayers of your faithful people: that those weighed down by grief at the loss of this child may we find reassurance in your infinite goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us praise the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation. Blessed be God forever.

Response: Blessed be God forever.

For those who trust in God, in the pain of sorrow there is consolation, in the face of despair there is hope, in the midst of death there is life. **N.** and **N.**, as we mourn the death of your child, we place ourselves in the hands of God and ask strength, for healing, and for love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reader: Listen to the words of the book of Lamentations:

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says my soul; therefore I will hope in him.

Lamentations 3:17-18, 21-24

The Lord's Prayer

With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us:

*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
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]*

Then the leader may invite all to extend their hands over the parents in blessing.

Father and Creator, in whom all life and death find meaning, we bless you at all times, especially when we have need of your consolation. **N.** and **N.** entrust to your care a life conceived in love. May your blessing come upon them now. Remove all anxiety from their minds and strengthen this love so that they may have peace in their hearts and home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

May the almighty and merciful God bless and protect us, in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Dear God. You have known me and loved me from the first moment of my life. Now you are with me at the time of **N.**'s death. Thank you for always being with me. I know you will receive **N.** into your presence and care for her/him eternally. Give us strength and comfort as we let go of **N.** and s/he moves into your hands. Let us be assured that one day we will meet again. In faith and love we commit **N.** to you who are eternal love.

*Dr. Bill Sherman
Pastor, Woodmont Baptist Church*

Protestant/Non-Denominational Christian

The 23rd Psalm

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me 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 they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever .

Let not your hearts be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Jn 14:1-3

God of life and God of death we give you the spirit and future life of **N**. You have cared for her/him while s/he lived upon this earth and we know you will continue to care for her/him from this day forward. While we are uncertain about the future, we know we are always in your loving hands and when in your hands all will be well. Thank you for the life you gave us in the person of **N**. May we be assured of the life that continues after this life on earth and be comforted knowing that this is not the end of all of life but a beginning of a new life. We ask this prayer in the name of the one who promises new life, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Dr. Glenn J. Stewart
Regional Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ)*

O, God, I cannot find the words to express the feelings we all feel while gathered around this bedside. Our hearts are broken because **N**. is now gone. Although we have anticipated this moment for a long time, we never knew just how much it would hurt or how empty life could feel without her/him.

At the same time - as hard as it is for us to admit to ourselves - we are thankful that the suffering is over. We would be liars if we did not admit that after such a long vigil, we are relieved that the struggle has ended and **N.** is at peace. Help us not to feel guilty when we say these words; as much as we never wanted to give her/him up, we would not have her/him back if it meant prolonging the pain.

God, you know what we've been through. You know the mixed emotions which fill us now. You know the tasks which lie before us. Walk with us as we make plans for tomorrow and the day after. Stay close beside us as we try to determine what to do with our lives now that our love is no longer needed beside this bed. Grant us grace for our first night alone. Amen.

*Rev. P. Joel Snider
Pastor, Crieewood Baptist Church*

Almighty God, be with **N.** this day as his/her body has found its rest. Fill him/her with your Holy Spirit that he/she may know the assurance of your presence. Be with us who love him/her, also, and give us the faith to see death as your ultimate healing gift. Help us to let him/her go, rejoicing in the certainty that he/she has returned to you, the source of his/her life. Replace our tears of sadness with those of joy at his/her birth in eternity, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Rev. Thomas S. Wilson
Rector, St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

Almighty God, your child Jesus died on a cross, and by his dying turned death into a doorway full of light. Welcome your servant **N.**, who has died. May pain be lifted. May flesh be glorified. May new life be filled with childlike laughter.

Please give us who walk away sweet tears, a tender concern for neighbors, and a sure sense of your unfailing love for us all; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

*David Buttrick
Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics
Vanderbilt Divinity School*

Almighty God, by your power Jesus Christ was raised from death. Watch over our Sister/Brother. Fill her/his eyes with your light to see, beyond human sight, a home within your love where pain is gone and frail flesh turns to glory. Banish fear. Brush tears away. Let death be as gentle as nightfall, promising a day when songs of joy shall make us glad to be together with Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Darrell D. Ray
Coordinator of Chaplain Services
Alive Hospice, Inc.*

O Gracious and Almighty God, you who knows from whence we have come and where we are going even though we do not know these things about ourselves. We come at this moment of difficulty to submit our way to your divine will.

Lord, you have said in your word: if we ask, it shall be given, if we seek we shall find, if we knock doors shall be opened unto us. We come now to ask that you give us strength to release our loved one back to you in a spirit of gratitude, knowing that there will be no more suffering, no more heartaches, no more disappointments.

Help us to rejoice that there is rest from all labor, there is peace that passes all understanding, there is unspeakable joy when union is formed with that innumerable caravan of ancestors that have gone on before and is able with all the hosts of heaven, to welcome one more new member.

Lord we seek greater faith. Remove all doubt. Help our unbelief. And now as our beloved stands knocking at the door of eternal life, may we be reminded of our own immortality that we may immediately rise from our slumber of pity and sorrow and be about the unfinished business that is before us.

Teach us to forgive, forget, to love and live that the remainder of our journey may be pleasing in thy sight. As we commend this spirit into your hands, give us life anew that we like our Savior will be able, in all things, to pray not my will but thine. In thy Holy name we pray.

*Chestina M. Archibald
Chaplain, Fisk Memorial Chapel*

Jewish

Eternal God, who sends consolation to all sorrowing hearts, we turn to You for solace in this, our trying hour.

Though bowed in grief as our loved one departs from our midst to enter into peace of life eternal, we reaffirm our faith in Your compassion and Your ever-present love.

May we bear our sorrow with trustful hearts, and knowing You are near, may we not despair. Into Your hands we commend the spirit of our beloved. Body and soul are Yours, O God, and in Your presence we cast off fear and are at peace.

"There is no death, what we call death.

Is but surcease from strife;

They do not die who we call dead,

They go from life ... to Life."

*Randall M. Falk
Rabbi Emeritus, The Temple*

Eloheinu v'elohei avotainu v'imotainu

Our God, and the God of our ancestors, accept our prayer. We turn to You, acknowledging that life and death are in your hands. If it is Your decree that **N.** be taken by death, may it be in peace and love.

We know that in life he left many deeds undone. S/He, like all of us, led an imperfect life. We pray for you to forgive those failings. May s/he be protected by the righteous deeds that are her/his legacy. May those deeds live on. Guardian of the helpless, Source of compassion, protect and comfort her/his family and friends. Their souls remain tied to her/him with limitless bonds. May **N.** be granted an eternal existence in your presence. Into Your hands s/he commits her/his soul.

(Silent meditation or time for those gathered to express their-personal farewells, or give voice to unfinished concerns.)

Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad.

Hear O Israel, The Lord is our God, the Lord Alone.

Baruch Shem kevod malchuto l'olam va'ed.

Praised be His glorious sovereignty throughout all time.

Adonai Hu Ha-elohim, Adonai Hu Ha-elohim

The Lord is God, The Lord is God.

(After the moment of death.)

Adonai natan v'Adonai lakach, y'hi shem Adonai m'vorach.

The Lord gave to us, and now the Lord has taken away, despite our grief, may we still praise the name of the Lord.

Baruch dayan ha'emet.

Praised be the ultimate Judge of all truth.

*Ronald S. Roth
Rabbi, West End Synagogue*

We rejoice over a birth and mourn over a death. But we should not. For when a man is born, who knows what he will do or how he will end? But when a man dies, we may rejoice-if left a good name and this world in peace.

- Jewish Midrash, Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:1 (4)

Jews have always relied on Tehillim (Psalms) in times of trouble. For example, when a relative is sick, people often recite psalms for their welfare. Psalms can be found in any bible. Some psalms that are particularly appropriate at this time include Psalm 20, 23, 79, 91 and 123. Kaddish is the tradition of reciting prayer during the first eleven months following the death of a loved one by prescribed mourners, and on each anniversary of the death.

An English Translation of the Mourner's Kaddish

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world which He has created according to His will. May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, Amen.

May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity. Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be He, beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are ever spoken in the world; and say, Amen.

We Remember Them

At the rising of the sun and at its going down,

Response: we remember him/her.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

Response: we remember him/her.

At the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,

Response: we remember him/her.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,

Response: we remember him/her.

At the rustling of leaves and the beauty of autumn,

Response: we remember him/her.

At the beginning of the year and when it ends,

Response: we remember him/her.

When we are weary and in need of strength,

Response: we remember him/her.

When we are lost and sick at heart,

Response: we remember him/her.

When we have joys we yearn to share,

Response: we remember him/her.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make,

Response: we remember him/her.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs,

Response: we remember him/her.

As long as we live, they too shall live,

for they are a part of us,

Response: we remember him/her.

Muslim/Sufi

Know, beloved that we cannot understand the future world until we know what death is; and we cannot know what death is until we know what life is; nor can we understand what life is until we know what the spirit is—the seat of the knowledge of God.

Al-Ghazali - Muslim medieval mystic

The God Who Only Knows Four Words

Every child has known God,

Not the God of names,

Not the God of don'ts

Not the God who ever does anything weird,

But the God who only knows four words

and keeps repeating them, saying:

“Come dance with Me.”

Come

Dance.

Hafiz - Beloved Poet of Persia

If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.

Kahlil Gibran

Buddhist

Light without equal, so pure;

Beauty without peer, so serene;

We desire to be reborn with you.

Power without limits, so strong;

Glory without end, so majestic;

We desire to be reborn with you.

Your essence was not born and will not die. It is neither being nor nonbeing. It is not a void nor does have form. It experiences neither pleasure nor pain. If you ponder what it is in you that feels the pain of this sickness, and beyond that you do not think or desire to ask anything, and if your mind dissolves like vapor in the sky, then the path to rebirth is blocked and the moment of instant release has come.

Baser Zen Buddhist

I am of the nature to grow old.

There is no way to escape growing old.

I am of the nature to have ill-health.

There is no way to escape having ill-health.

I am of the nature to die.

There is no way to escape death.

All that is dear to me and everyone I love
are of the nature to change.
There is no way to escape being separated from them.
My actions are my only true belongings.
I cannot escape the consequences of my actions.
My actions are the ground on which I stand.

Sayings of the Buddha

Hindu

Let all meditate on the worshipful Supreme and Divine reality that pervades the universe. May He help us to bear this burden and enlighten our minds. May He free us from the bondage of death and rebirth. O Adorable Lord of mercy and love, Thou are Satchidananda.

Thou are the indweller of all beings. Grant us an understanding heart, equal vision, balanced mind, faith, devotion and wisdom. Grant us inner spiritual strength at this time of trial and stress. Let us ever remember Thee.

Let us ever sing Thy glories; let us abide in Thee forever and ever.

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti, Om (peace, peace, peace)

*Krishna K. Paul
Elder, Hindu Temple*

Never fear that old age will invade that city; never fear that this inner treasure of all reality will wither and decay. This knows no age when the body ages; this knows no dying when the body dies. This is the real city of Brahman; this is the Self, free from old age, from death and grief, hunger and thirst. In the Self all desires are fulfilled.

Chandogya Upanishad

Native American/First Nation

As I walk,
The universe is walking with me
In beauty it walks before me
In beauty it walks behind me
In beauty it walks below me
In beauty it walks above me
Beauty is on every side
As I walk, I walk with beauty

Traditional Navajo Prayer

Pagan

Elements Hymn

At one with the Universe
My spirit is free
All creation pulses in me
Floating upon the wind
Sparking with the energy of fire
Flowing with the waters
Dancing the rhythms of Earth
Spinning and Spiraling
into Elemental re-birth
The magic of being renews
Floating upon the wind
Sparking with the energy of fire
Flowing with the waters
Dancing the rhythms of Earth
Between the Moon and Sun

Abby Willowroot

Words of Comfort

You may feel the need for comforting words before or after a loved one dies. We don't presume to be able to tell anyone what to say. If

a dying person requests comforting words or prayers to be said from their tradition, or if you need some guidance about what one might say at this difficult time, here are a few examples to draw from.

Saying “Thank you” and “Good-bye”

N. thank you for all you have given me, your family, friends, and the world. You have impacted my life with your love, your caring and your wisdom. Now that you are gone, I will carry all your love and everything I learned from you within me. The essence of who you were as a person will live within me and within others. You will continue to give to the world as we pass on to others what we learned from you. I will miss you, but will have joy in remembering all you meant to me. Each thing you touched will bring you to mind. Your laugh, your smile, your words will resound in my mind and heart. Good-bye dear one.

Helen Meier, Hope Hospice, Dublin, CA

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there. I did not die.

Mary Elizabeth Frye

Love all creation, both the whole and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of light. Love the animals, love the plants, love each separate thing. If you love each thing you will pierce the mystery of life, and when you perceive this, you will from then on grow every day to a fuller understanding of it, until you come at last to love the whole world with a love that then be all-embracing and eternal.

Fyodor Dostoevsky

Blessing On The Death Of The Beloved

Though we need to weep your loss,
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts,
Where no storm or night or pain can reach you.
Your love was like the dawn
Brightening over our lives
Awakening beneath the dark
A further adventure of colour.
The sound of your voice
Found for us
A new music
That brightened everything.
Whatever you enfolded in your gaze
Quickened in the joy of its being;
You placed smiles like flowers
On the altar of the heart.
Your mind always sparkled
With wonder at things.
Though your days here were brief,
Your spirit was live, awake, complete.

We look towards each other no longer
From the old distance of our names;
Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath,
As close to us as we are to ourselves.
Though we cannot see you with outward eyes,
We know our soul's gaze is upon your face,
Smiling back at us from within everything
To which we bring our best refinement.
Let us not look for you only in memory,
Where we would grow lonely without you.
You would want us to find you in presence,
Beside us when beauty brightens,
When kindness glows
And music echoes eternal tones.
When orchids brighten the earth,
Darkest winter has turned to spring;
May this dark grief flower with hope
In every heart that loves you.
May you continue to inspire us:
To enter each day with a generous heart.
To serve the call of courage and love
Until we see your beautiful face again
In that land where there is no more separation,
Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,
And where we will never lose you again.

John O'Donohue

An Excerpt From Fruits Of Solitude

"They that love beyond the world cannot be
separated by it.
Death cannot kill what never dies.
Nor can spirits ever be divided
that love and live in the same divine principle:

the root and record of their friendship.
If absence be not death,
neither is theirs.
Death is but crossing the world,
as friends do the sea;
...they live for one another still.
This is the comfort of friends:
that though they may be said to die,
yet their friendship and society are,
in the best sense immortal,
because they are ever-present."

William Penn

Robert Ingersoll, a great public speaker of the late 1800's, was asked to speak at the graveside of a friend's young daughter. He spoke briefly, and with the greatest words of comfort he could find. He said,

"Before the sublime mystery of life and spirit, the mystery of infinite space and endless time, we stand in reverent awe...."

This much we know: we are at least one phase of the immortality of life.

The mighty stream of life flows on, and, in this mighty stream, we too flow on...not lost...but each eternally significant.

For this I feel: The spirit never betrays the person who trusts it. Physical life may be defeated but life goes on; character survives, goodness lives and love is immortal."

Col Robert G. Ingersoll

A Blessing For Grief

When you lose someone you love,

Your life becomes strange,
The ground beneath you gets fragile,
Your thoughts make your eyes unsure;
And some dead echo
drags your voice down
Where words have no confidence.
Your heart has grown heavy with loss;
And though this loss
has wounded others too,
No one knows
what has been taken from you
When the silence of absence deepens.
Flickers of guilt kindle regret
For all that was left unsaid or undone.
There are days
when you wake up happy;
Again inside the fullness of life,
Until the moment breaks
And you are thrown back
Onto the black tide of loss.
Days when you have your heart back,
You are able to function well
Until in the middle of work or encounter,
Suddenly with no warning,
You are ambushed by grief.
It becomes hard to trust yourself.
All you can depend on now is that
Sorrow will remain faithful to itself.
More than you, it knows its way
And will find the right time
To pull and pull the rope of grief
Until that coiled hill of tears
Has reduced to its last drop.
Gradually, you will learn acquaintance

With the invisible form of your departed;
And when the work of grief is done,
The wound of grief is done,
The wound of loss will heal
And you will have learned
To wean your eyes
From that gap in the air
And be able to enter the hearth
In your soul where your loved one
Has awaited your return
All the time.

John O'Donohue

Suggested Readings From The Hebrew And Christian Scriptures

1 Kings 19:4-8 – God strengthens and sustains God's servants.

Job 3:3, 11-17, 20-23 – Why should the sufferer be born to see the light?

Job 7:1-4, 6-11 – Remember that our life is like the wind, and yet we are destined for eternal life with God.

Job 7:12-21 – What are we, that you make much of us?

Job 19:23-27 – I know that my Redeemer lives.

Wisdom 9:1-18 – Who could know your counsel? We ask to share in God's wisdom.

Isaiah 35:1-10 – Strengthen the feeble hands.

Isaiah 38 – The cry of a suffering person and joy in God’s strength.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 – He bore our sufferings himself.

Isaiah 61:1-3 – The spirit of the Lord is upon me to comfort all who mourn.

Acts 3:1-10 – In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk.

Acts 3:11-16 – Faith in Jesus has given this man perfect health.

Acts 4:8-12 – There is no other name but the name of Jesus by which we are saved.

Acts 13:32-39 – The one whom God raised from the dead will never see corruption of the flesh.

Romans 8:14-17 – If we suffer with him, we will be glorified with him.

Romans 8:18-27 – We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies. The Spirit enables us to pray in our suffering.

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 – Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.

Romans 12:1-2 – All our lives, even our suffering and pain, are caught up in the offering of Christ in obedience to the will of our Father.

1 Cor 1:18-25 – God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Cor 12:12-22, 24b-27 – If one member suffers, all the members suffer.

1 Cor 15:1-4 – The death and resurrection of Christ, the basis of our faith.

1 Cor 15:12-20 – Christ has been raised from the dead; through him has come the resurrection of us all.

2 Cor 4:16-18 – Though our body is being weakened, our spirit is renewed.

2 Cor 5:1, 6-10 – We have an everlasting home in heaven.

Galatians 4:12-19 – My illness gave me the opportunity to bring the Gospel to you.

Philippians 2:25-30 – He was ill and almost died but God took pity on him.

Colossians 1:22-29 – In my flesh I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of his body.

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 – Jesus identified himself with us totally; he suffered, and through his suffering discovered the will of the Father.

James 5:13-16 – Anointing done in faith, will save the sick.

1 Peter 1:3-9 – You will rejoice even though for a short time you must suffer.

1 John 3:1-2 – What we shall be has not yet been revealed.

Revelation 21:1-7 – No more death, mourning, sadness or pain.

Psalm 6 – A suffering person who cries to God for strength.

Psalm 25 – A prayer for forgiveness and salvation.

Psalm 27 – Trust in God in time of suffering.

Psalm 34 – God is the salvation of those who trust in him.

Psalm 42 – Nostalgia and longing to be with God.

Psalm 43

Psalm 63 – A prayer of desire to be with God.

Psalm 71 – God is our home in all our trials.

Psalm 84 – Beauty of heaven.

Psalm 86 – Prayer of those who are in distress.

Psalm 90 – Our God is eternal, strong, with power to save us.

Psalm 102 – The prayer of those who want to be united with God.

Psalm 103 – Praise and thanks to God for God's merciful love.

Psalm 123 – God is the home of God's people.

Psalm 143 – A prayer for help in time of trouble.

Matthew 5:1-12a – Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

“Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you
and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely
on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 8:1-4 – If you wish to do so, you can cure me.

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.” He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

Matthew 8:5-17 – He bore our infirmities.

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress.” And he said to him, “I will come and cure him.” The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, “Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And the servant was healed in that hour.

When Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. This was to

fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

Matthew 11:25-30 – Come to me, all you who labor.

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 15:29-31 – Jesus heals large crowds.

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Matthew 25:31-40 – As often as you did it to the least of these who belong to me, you did it to me.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from

the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Mark 2:1-12 – Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the sick man: Your sins are forgiven.

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” And he stood up, and

immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Mark 4:35-41 – Why are you so fearful? Why do you not have faith?

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Mark 10:46-52 – Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Mark 16:15-20 – They will place their hands on the sick and they will recover.

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

Luke 7:19-23 – Go tell John what you have seen.

and sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” When the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’” Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

Luke 10:5-6, 8-9 – Heal the sick, Jesus commanded his followers.

Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure

the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

Luke 10:25-37 – Who is my neighbor?

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 11:5-13 – Ask and it will be given to you.

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him. ’And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are

with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 12:35-44 – Happy are those whom the master finds watching when he returns.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions.

Luke 18:9-14 – O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

John 6:35-40 – It is the will of my Father that what he has given me will not perish.

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

John 6:53-58 – Whoever eats this bread has eternal life.

So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food

and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

John 9:1-7 – The blind man has not sinned; it was to let God’s work show forth in him.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

John 10:11-18 – The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own

accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”
