

FOURTH DAY

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you our *brother (sister) N*. We thank you for giving *him* to us, *his* family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIFTH DAY

O God who brought us to birth, and in whose arms we die, comfort us in our grief and shock at the death of *N.*; embrace us with your love, give us hope in our confusion and grace to let *N.* go into new life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SIXTH DAY

Most loving God: the death of your Son has opened to us a new and living way. Give us hope to overcome our despair; help us to surrender *N.* to your keeping, and let our sorrow find comfort in your care; through the name and presence of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

SEVENTH DAY

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

EIGHTH DAY

Jesus our Savior, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant that we may follow in faith where you have led the way, so that we may fall asleep peacefully in you and awake in your likeness, for your tender mercies' sake. Amen.

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Prayers in a Time of Great Suffering and Grief



FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength. By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

God of Life, you give us strength and hope. Be with us in the chaos of this time. Calm our fears, be the light for our path, and increase our trust in your promise never to leave or forsake us. We pray through Christ, in the power of your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

FOR A PERSON WHO IS GRAVELY ILL

God of all comfort, our very present help in trouble: be near to *N.* for whom our prayers are offered. Look on *him* with the eyes of your mercy; comfort *him* with a sense of your presence; preserve *him* from the enemy; and give *him* patience in his affliction. Restore *him* to health, and lead *him* to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gracious God, only source of life and health: Help, comfort, and relieve *N.*, and give your power of healing to those who minister to *his* needs; that *his* weakness may be turned to strength and confidence in your loving care; for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A LITANY UPON LEARNING OF THE DEATH OF SOMEONE DEAR

Find a gentle place. Light a candle if you can, and remember your friend by name. If more than one person is with you, you may alternate lines. Though the church is not physically together, these words from our burial liturgy knit us together in our grief.

Receive, O Lord, your servant N., as *he* returns to you.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother (sister) N.

Wash *him* in the holy font of everlasting life, and clothe *him* in his heavenly wedding garment.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother (sister) N.

May *he* hear your words of invitation, "Come, you blessed of my Father."

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother (sister) N.

May *he* gaze upon you, Lord, face to face, and taste the blessedness of perfect rest.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother (sister) N.

May angels surround *him*, and saints welcome *him* in peace.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother (sister) N.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Depart, O Christian soul, out of this world;
In the Name of God the Father Almighty who created you;
In the Name of Jesus Christ who redeemed you;
In the Name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you.
May your rest be this day in peace,
and your dwelling place in the Paradise of God.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant N.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *him* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

EIGHT DAYS OF PRAYER FOR ONE DECEASED

The eighth day is a symbol of resurrection--the beginning of new life in Christ. This simple liturgy, perhaps said at the end of the day, invites you to bring your grief to God, even when we cannot physically gather to share our pain and seek hope.

EACH DAY:

V. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil.

R. *For I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

V. Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) with your saints,

R. *Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

V. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord:

R. *And let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Then say the prayer appointed for the day (found below).

After the day's prayer, say the Lord's Prayer and this concluding sentence

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

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FIRST DAY

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord: Receive our *brother (sister) N.* into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place. Let *his* heart and soul now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

SECOND DAY

Deliver your servant, N., O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set *him* free from every bond; that *he* may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THIRD DAY

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant N., being raised with *him*, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*