

Grieving Remembrance Thanksgiving

Prayers for a Funeral (1)

Opening prayer

Gracious and loving God, you are the giver of life. We come from you, and in death we return to you. Be with us now.

We bring to you our grief and loss, because ... A ... was part of our lives, we loved *them* and now it hurts.

We bring to you our thanks for all that ... A ... meant to us, all that *they* shared with us and all that *they* gave us of *themselves*.

[as appropriate]

We bring to you our relief, that for ... A ... there is nothing left to fear, no more suffering, no more frailty, no more confusion, and *they* are with you and at peace.

Come into the turmoil of our emotions, renew our faith and grant us the peace that only you can give.

All **Amen.**

Prayer of thanksgiving for a life

God of life and light and hope, with your whole Church in heaven and on earth we bring to you our thanks, we offer to you our praise, for all that you have done for humankind through Jesus who is the Christ.

You gave him to live and die for us. You showed your plan for the world and proved that your love has no limit, and on that first Easter when you raised Jesus from the dead you promised that all humankind might share his resurrection life

For the hope of our faith, for the good news of your kingdom, and for all those whom you have welcomed into your loving presence, we thank you, gracious God.

But especially now, we thank you for the life of ... A ... whom we loved.

We thank you for all the ways in which ... A ... became special and precious to each of us who knew *them*;
for the values and standards

for *their* warmth and humour and sense of family;
for every life that *they* enriched and all that *they* invested of *themselves*
in our lives;
for the faith by which *they* lived and in which *they* died. We thank you for the
glorious treasury of memories that are ours to keep, to hold on to and to enjoy –
the moments that were deep, special and personal, the times that rang with
laughter and fun,
and for the ordinary days of discovering each other a little more,
when affection and love, trust and respect, grew and were deepened.
We thank you for the courage shown, and for a life fulfilled,
and for all that ... A ... reflected of your goodness and love.

And now we are glad that ... A ... has found peace and will neither suffer M

Prayers for a Funeral (2)

Introductory prayer

Compassionate God, you have loved ... A ... , and we have loved *them* too.
We come to you because the love we feel is hurting and distressing.
We feel lost and helpless, sometimes lonely. We miss ... A
Help us to believe that your love is greater and more farseeing than ours.
Help us to find confidence in your love and peace in your compassion so that
our fears are calmed and our loneliness is eased. May today and tomorrow
be filled with your comfort, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer after the eulogy

Gracious Father God, your love never ends and is always willing to comfort
us. On this occasion grief can threaten us and over-shadow our hope
and optimism.
Help us to remember with gratitude ... A May *their* influence remain
with us because *they* were dear to us. May your compassion lead us
from the grief of separation to the hope of resurrection.
We thank you for the life which has passed; we give thanks because we
have seen the leading of God in ... A ... who has died.
We give thanks because of the virtues, love and activity which made
them

A service for the interment of ashes

Introductory words

We brought nothing into the world, and it is certain we cannot take anything out of the world.

After labour comes rest; after struggle, peace; after life's fitful fever, this last sleep.

Don't worry, said Jesus; I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and now I am alive for eternity, and I have the keys to eternal life.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again; and so it will be for those who died as Christians; God will bring them to life with Jesus. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. So there is consolation in the love and activity of God.

... A ... has now departed and *they* now rest with those who have gone before. What *they* have been and what *they* have given now rests with the God whom *they* worshipped and to whom *they* gave *their* life through Jesus, the Christ.

We thank God for who and what *they* were; for the love and concern *they* showed and was experienced by *them* and given by *them*. May *their* rest be in the peace and love of God, and our memory of *them* be blessed and loving, gracious and accepting. *They* have lived *their* life, and have departed to be with those who went before.

May we continue to be content to release *them* to you, and to be assured that in your keeping *they* are safe, happy and complete.

Prayers

Let us pray

God of mercy, and God of all comfort; look in love and compassion on us. Enable us to find in you refuge and strength, and close friend in times of trouble and stress, and to know, though it is beyond immediate knowledge, your strength which upbuilds and surrounds us in times of bereavement. Grant us faith and hope, and peace and comfort through Jesus the Christ who gave himself for us that the life we live may be filled with peace and hope.

Accept to yourself the life of ... A ... , with its achievements and failures, its ups and downs; its funny times and serious times, and deal with *them* graciously as we say goodbye to *them* and use our own lives to bring goodness and truth to those whom we know. These things we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of undying life,
we thank you
that in Christ Jesus your Son,
you have given us life
which even death cannot destroy.
Form in us his likeness
and deepen his life in us
until our work on earth is done;
then time shall be no more
and night shall no more hide us
from each other' sight.
These things we ask
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who taught his disciples to say:

All **Our Father ...**

Where the coffin is open, the congregation may now be invited to come and take their leave of the body; music is played. The coffin is closed during the singing of the next hymn.

Hymn

Prayer of release

We now release ... A ... into the hands of God, our Maker and our Redeemer.

Let us pray

Prayers at cemetery or crematorium

Sentences

Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one.

I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever. (Revelations 1:17-18)

I am convinced
that neither death nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38-39)

Committal

(At the grave)

From the dust we have come,
to the dust we return.
The earthly life of ... A ... has come to an end.
We have released *them* into God's merciful keeping;
we now commit *their* body to the earth.
dust to dust, ashes to ashes,
trusting in the power of God
who raised our saviour Jesus Christ
in triumph from the dead

Prayer

(During or after which the ashes are buried)

Lord of life

You have promised that none of those you have redeemed
will ever be lost.

Strengthen us now as we return ... A... 's ashes to the earth
in the knowledge that all life finds fulfilment in you
and death has no domination
over us.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Closing sentences

I will not fail you or forsake you says the Lord.

(Joshua 1:5)

Jesus said: And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

(Matthew 28:20)

Blessing

Now may the peace of God
which surpasses all understanding,
keep guard in your hearts and minds
so that you may be found
secure in Christ at the last.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you all
today and for evermore.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace and the God of all peace go with you.

Words and prayers for a child's Funeral

Opening words

We gather here, needing God's healing love,
and searching for his reassuring strength.

We gather to share our grief, to comfort and support one another
in our common loss.

We gather to share our hurt and our sense of outrage
that A's life has been unjustly cut of, and we have
been robbed of that promising young life.

We gather to commend to God, ... A ... and ... A ... ,
and to look for his comfort in our loss.

Opening prayer

Eternal God, you have loved us from the beginning.

In a vulnerable infant born in a stable you began the
demonstration of your eternal love, and with an empty
tomb you sealed your promise of eternal life.

In the ache that seems endless and the longing that we cannot let go,
speak to us in the depth of our being, and help us to know that the God
who made us in his own image never lets us go, never tires and never
abandons his children.

In our grief for ... A ... , as we hear again the words of our faith,
let your peace that passes understanding and your love that is deeper
than words touch our hearts. Transform our grief with the certainty that
Christ walks beside us through this life and beyond.

All **Amen.**

Prayer of thanksgiving

God of grace and light and healing,
God of our depth and our elation,

We thank you for the pictures *they* painted and the ones *they* were going to paint, for the music *they* played and the music *they* would have played,



A prayer for children who have died

Ever-loving Father we pray that you will receive the soul of this child ... A
You will care for *them* and *they*

Our lives can never be quite the same again.
We have no wish to forget *them*,
nor do we want to cling to the past,
brooding constantly for what might have been.

Burial of the organs of a baby removed during post-mortem

Greeting by the grave-side

We meet in the faith of God who created us, Christ who redeemed us, the Holy Spirit who brings us life. We meet in the faith that, though ... A ... has died, *their* life is not destroyed by death. *They* now lay cradled in God's love, whose warmth gives life to the dead.

As we return *their* remaining organs to the earth, let us comfort one another with the assurance that one day we will be reunited with *them* in joy and blessing beyond our imaging.

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

(John 6:39)

Prayer

Loving God, giver of life,
all that we have and hold
is on trust from you.
What you have given to us we return to you.
Give us grace to let go
of those things we can cling to no longer
that we may know ourselves to be held by you
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who taught us to say when we pray:

All

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

All **Amen.**

So let us go in peace

(Numbers 6:24-26)

Fleur Houston

A Funeral prayer for a person who has committed suicide

(Exploring our sense of guilt and anger)

Loving God, our words are not enough. We remember before you today our friend ... A ... whose hurt we were not able to ease. We feel as if we let *them* down, because the hurt was too great, life too frightening, worries too great and our efforts

Look down from the cross

(A prayer following a suicide)

Look down from the cross, Lord
In the darkest of hours;
As the shock of what's happened
Hits as hard as the nails.
As the fear of desertion
Leaves us empty, betrayed.
Look down from the cross, Lord
Be with us we pray.

Look down from the cross, Lord
In the bleakest of days;
As the loss we are suffering
Tears a hole in our ways.
As our fear for the future
Leaves us angry and dazed.
Look down from the cross, Lord
Be with us we pray.

Look down from the cross, Lord
And see us here, now;
As we try to forgive
When we feel so dismayed.
As our lives must move on
With our hearts torn in two.
Look down from the cross, Lord
Be with us we pray.

Look down from the cross, Lord
At our future lives;
As time passes slowly
And nights last for days.
As you suffer with us
And carry us on.
Look down from the cross, Lord
Be with us we pray.

Melanie Frew

O Lord through all our days

O Lord, through all our days
you held us in your care,
and though we wandered from your ways,
surprised, we found you there;
wherever we have been,
though strange the paths we trod,
there's nothing that could come between
your children and their God.

If such a love as this
has followed us from birth,
has blessed our lives and guided us
through all our time on earth,
then surely you will keep
our spirits in your care,
and bring us safely through death's sleep
to know and find you there.

And this we dare believe
through Jesus Christ your Son,
who promised that he would receive
us there, where he has gone;
he died and rose again:
and all he came to give
we know has not been given in vain;
he lives, and we shall live.

Tune: Diademata
Basil Bridge