

ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH

TO BE A BEACON RADIATING GOD'S LOVE AMONG ALL PEOPLE

MINISTRY AT THE TIME OF DEATH



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Ministry at the time of death may be offered to a number of people: first, to the dying person, especially if still conscious: second, to family and friends who may have been gathered by this event. Different words are required for different people on such an occasion, and at different moments.

The prayers which follow have been divided into several groups; prayers for and with the dying person, prayers with family and friends, prayers when the person has died.

It is appropriate that these prayers be led by someone who has already ministered to those involved, whether as minister of the congregation, lay visitor, hospital chaplain. or the person exercising the ministry Of the Church. However, a family member. or friend, or anyone else, may lead in the offering of these prayers.

PRAYERS WITH A PERSON WHO IS DYING

One or more of these prayers may be said slowly, phrase by phrase, with a dying person, or in his/her name.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name;
your kingdom come;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son:*
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:*
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, help me.
Father, I place myself in your hands.
Holy God, I believe in you.
I trust you. I love you.

A PRAYER FOR A PERSON NEAR DEATH

One of the following prayers may be offered in the presence of a person who is dying.

Almighty God, look on your servant, lying in great weakness, and comfort him/her with the promise of life everlasting, given in the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or

God of mercy, look with love on N-, and receive him/her into your heavenly kingdom. Bless him/her and let him/her live with you forever, we ask this grace through Christ our Lord.

PEOPLE: *Amen.*

PRAYERS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

One or more of the following may be read:

Psalm 23 Psalm 121 John 14:1-6, 23, 27

Psalm 91 John 6:37-40

PSALM 23 (KJV)

1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. 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.
5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

PSALM 121 - NRSV

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PROTECTION

1. I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
2. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps

Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

3. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
4. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son;
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning is now
and ever shall be world without end.
Amen.

PSALM 91

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PROTECTION

1. You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
2. will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my
fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.'
3. For he will deliver you from the snare of the
fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
4. he will cover you with his pinions,

and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5. You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,
6. or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
7. A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
8. You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
9. Because you have made the Lord your
refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
10. no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
11. For he will command his angels concerning
you
to guard you in all your ways.
12. On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a
stone.
13. You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will
trample under foot.
14. Those who love me, I will deliver;

I will protect those who know my name.

15. When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honour them.
16. With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

JOHN 14:1-6, 23, 27

JESUS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

A LITANY

God the Father;

Have mercy on your servant.

God the Son,

Have mercy on your servant.

God the Spirit,

Have mercy on your servant.

Holy Trinity, one God,

Have mercy on your servant.

From all evil, from all sin, from all tribulation,

Deliver your servant.

By your holy Incarnation, by your cross and
passion, by your precious death and burial,

Have mercy on your servant.

By your glorious resurrection and ascension, and by
the coming Of the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy on your servant.

We sinners beseech you to hear us, Lord Christ, that
it may please you to deliver the soul of your servant
from the power of evil, and from eternal death.

We beseech you to hear us, Lord.

That it may please you mercifully to pardon all his/
her sins,

We beseech you to hear us, Lord.

That it may please you to give him/her joy and
gladness in your kingdom, with your saints in light,

We beseech you to hear us, Lord.

Lamb Of God, you take away the sin Of the world,
Have mercy on your servant.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on your servant.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on your servant.

LET US PRAY:

God of mercy, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended His Spirit at His last hour, into those same hands we now commend your servant N, that death may be for *him/her* the gate to life and eternal fellowship with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

PRAYERS AT DEATH

One of the following commendations may be said:

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

You only are immortal, the Creator and maker of all; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return, for so did you ordain when you created me, saying "You are dust, and to dust you shall return". All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia. alleluia!

RESPONSE:

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

OR

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.

OR

Loving and merciful God, we entrust our *brother/sister* to your mercy. You loved *him/her* greatly in this life; now that *he/she* is freed from all its cares, welcome *him/her* now into paradise where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping or pain, but only peace and joy with Jesus, your Son, and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The minister may conclude these prayers with a simple blessing, in these or similar words:

God grant us to share in the inheritance of His saints in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us, now and always. **Amen.**

