Prayers for Departed Friends

With a Register for Recording Names and Dates

Fourth Edition

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Prayers for Departed Friends

O GOD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, in Whose embrace all creatures live, in whatsoever world or condition they be; I beseech Thee for him whose name and dwelling-place and every need Thou knowest. Lord, vouchsafe him light and rest, peace and refreshment, joy and consolation in Paradise, in the companionship of Saints, in the presence of Christ, in the ample folds of Thy great love.

Grant that his life (so troubled here) may unfold itself in Thy sight, and find a sweet employment in the spacious fields of eternity. If he hath ever been hurt or maimed by any unhappy word or deed of mine, I pray Thee of Thy great
pity to heal and restore him, that he may serve Thee without hindrance.

Tell him, O gracious Lord, if it may be, how much I love him and miss him, and long to see him again; and, if there be ways in which he may come, vouchsafe him to me as a guide and guard, and grant me a sense of his nearness in such degree as Thy laws permit.

If in aught I can minister to his peace, be pleased of Thy love to let this be; and mercifully keep me from every act which may deprive me of the sight of him as soon as our trial-time is over, or mar the fulness of our joy when the end of the days hath come.

Pardon, O gracious Lord and Father, whatsoever is amiss in this my prayer, and let Thy will be done, for my will is blind and erring, but Thine is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, with Whom do live the spirits of them that depart hence in the Lord, and with Whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity; We give Thee hearty thanks, for that it hath pleased Thee to deliver this our brother out of the miseries of this sinful world; beseeching Thee, that it may please Thee, of Thy gracious goodness, shortly to accomplish the number of Thine elect, and to hasten Thy kingdom; that we, with all those that are departed in the true faith of Thy holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in Thy eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
O MERCIFUL God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the resurrection and the life; in Whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he die; and whosoever liveth, and believeth in Him, shall not die eternally; Who also hath taught us, by His holy Apostle Saint Paul, not to be sorry, as men without hope, for them that sleep in Him; We meekly beseech Thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that, when we shall depart this life, we may rest in Him, as our hope is this our brother doth; and that, at the general Resurrection in the last day, we may be found acceptable in Thy sight; and receive that blessing, which Thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear Thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of My Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world:

Grant this, we beseech Thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

BLESSèD Lord Christ, Thou Great Intercessor for us with the Father, look with compassion upon all who have passed beyond this present life into the spheres of repentance, purgation, and progressive love. Especially would I pray for . . . who are so dear to me. They are Thine, and none can pluck them out of Thine Hand, beset though they may have been by the temptations and snares of the enemy. It may be that as yet they are not fit for Thy near Presence, but I confidently trust that through Thy immeasurable Love they shall at last be gathered into the company of Thy Saints and restored to the inheritance which Thou hast intended for them.

Grant to all who are still in the Shadows a longing desire for Thee,
willingness to suffer as much as need be, and unfailing effort and courage to meet the fuller realization of their sin and of Thy mercy as they pass upward towards the Light that shineth more and more unto the Perfect Day.

Give them, as soon as may be, an entrance into the Blessed Land where Thou art all in all to Thy Saints, and the Eternal Joy of the Redeemed for ever and ever. I offer my prayer in Thy most holy Name of Jesus. Amen.

GRANT, we beseech Thee, merciful Lord, to Thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve Thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O LORD, Thou God of the spirits of all flesh; be mindful of Thy faithful from Abel the just even unto this day; and for Thy Son’s sake give to them and to us, in Thy due time, a happy resurrection and a glorious rest at Thy right hand for evermore. Amen.

GRANT, O Lord, that the soul of our brother departed may rest in Thy peace and protection, and reign in Thy kingdom in heaven; through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

O GOD, Whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive; Look favourably on the soul of Thy servant N., and grant him remission of all his sins; that, being loosed from the bands of death, he may attain unto life eternal. Amen.
ENTER not in judgement with Thy servant, O Lord, for in Thy sight shall no man be justified unless Thou vouchsafe to forgive him all his sins; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O GOD, Who hast taught us that it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins; grant, we beseech Thee, that our humble prayers in behalf of the souls of Thy servants, our brethren, friends, and benefactors, may avail for them, that Thou mayest deliver them from evil, and make them partakers of Thy everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For those who have given their lives for their Country

ALMIGHTY God, we commend to Thy loving kindness the souls of Thy servants... who have given their lives to defend us. Accept, O Lord, the offering of their self-sacrifice, and grant to them with all Thy faithful servants a place of refreshment and peace, where the light of Thy countenance shines for ever, and where all tears are wiped away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
For use at Holy Communion

O GREAT High Priest, the true Priest, Jesu Christ, I pray Thee, for the souls of the faithful departed (especially . . .), that this great Sacrament of Thy love may be to them health and salvation, joy and refreshment. O Lord, my God, grant them this day a great and abundant feast of Thee, the Living Bread, Who camest down from heaven, and givest life unto the world; even of Thy holy and blessed Flesh, the Lamb without spot, Who taketh away the sins of the world; even of that Flesh, which was taken of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and conceived by the Holy Ghost; and of that Fountain of mercy which, by the soldier's lance, flowed from Thy most Sacred Side; that they be thereby enlarged and satisfied, refreshed and comforted; and may rejoice in Thy praise and in Thy glory. Amen.

ACCEPT, we beseech Thee, O Lord, merciful Father, this oblation, which we offer unto Thee on behalf of the soul of Thy servant N., which Thou hast delivered from the corruption of the flesh, and grant that he may be absolved from all the errors of his mortal life, and in eternal rest await the day of resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BE mindful, O Lord, of Thy servants who are gone before us with the sign of faith, and sleep the sleep of peace. To them, O Lord, and to all who rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, life, and peace; for His sake Who now pleads before Thee the merits of that great Sacrifice which we here commemorate, Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord. Amen.
"In One Communion"

Lord, where Thou art our holy Dead must be,
Unpierced, as yet, the Sacramental mist;
But we are nearest them and nearest Thee At solemn Eucharist.

O Lord, we crave for those gone Home to Thee,
For those who made the earthly home so fair;
How little we may know, how little see,
Only—that Thou art there.

Dear hands unclasped from ours are clasping Thee;
Thou holdest us for ever in Thy Heart;
So close the One Communion—are we
In very truth, apart?

G. W.

Prayer for Mourners

O GOD, Who hast called Thy servant out of this world, and, as we trust, hast brought his soul into sure consolation and rest; We humbly submit to Thy Fatherly will, beseeching Thee to support us in our sorrow, to increase in us Thy grace, and finally to unite us to the company of Thy faithful departed; for the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy blessed Son. Amen.

For an Anniversary

O GOD, the Lord of all mercy and forgiveness, grant unto the soul of Thy servant N., the anniversary of whose death we have in remembrance, a time of refreshing, a quiet resting-place, and the glory of light everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Short Prayers and Ejaculations

The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day.—2 Tim. i. 18.

He sleeps in peace. May God remember him for ever.—Inscription from the Catacombs.

Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

May he live in the Lord and pray for us.

Grant rest, O Lord, to Thy servant with Thy Saints.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

Lord all-pitying, Jesu blest,
Grant them Thine eternal rest.

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

In time of War

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.—S. John xv. 13.

PITIFULLY behold the sorrows of our hearts, and hear us who cry to Thee on behalf of . . . and all others slain in battle.

We beseech Thee to have mercy on all those who have suffered from the horrors of war in sickness, pestilence or famine, and on those who go to their account by sudden and unprepared death.

Jesu, Mercy.
Litany for the Faithful Departed

O GOD the Father of heaven; have mercy upon the souls of the faithful departed.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world; have mercy upon the souls of the faithful departed.

O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son; have mercy upon the souls of the faithful departed.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God; have mercy upon the souls of the faithful departed.

O Thou Who hast the keys of hell and death, and art the Resurrection and the Life;

Grant them eternal rest.

O Thou Who didst spare Magdalene, Who didst pardon Peter though he denied Thee, Who didst hear the dying thief on the Cross;

Grant them eternal rest.

O Thou Who didst bruise the serpent's head, Who didst die for our sins, didst rise for our justification, and ever livest to make intercession for us;

Grant them eternal rest.

By the mystery of Thy holy Incarnation, by Thy holy Nativity and Circumcision, by Thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation;

Grant them eternal rest.

By Thine Agony and bloody Sweat, by Thy Cross and Passion, by Thy precious Death and Burial;

Grant them eternal rest.

By Thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost;

Grant them eternal rest.
We sinners beseech Thee to hear us.

That Thou wilt hasten the day when Thou wilt admit these Thy expectant servants to the Beatific Vision;
We beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wilt receive the prayers and alms of Thy Church, and regard the Sacrifice we present upon their behalf at Thine earthly altar;
We beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldest crown their longing desires with fruition, and admit them into Thy sanctuary, where nothing unclean can enter;
We beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldest have mercy upon the souls of our fathers and ancestors, who have departed this life in Thy faith and fear;
We beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldest grant a place of refreshment, light, and peace, to the souls of our kinsfolk and friends, whom

Thou hast caused to depart in the hope of a blessed resurrection;
We beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldest remember those who have left no name on earth, but yet form part of Thy mystical Body;
We beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou wouldest hasten the day when we, with all the faithful, shall receive our perfect consummation and bliss in Thy eternal and everlasting glory;
We beseech Thee, hear us.

King of tremendous Majesty;
We beseech Thee, hear us.

Son of God;
We beseech Thee, hear us.

℣. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world;
℟. Grant them Thy peace.

℣. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world;
℟. Grant them Thy peace.
Prayers for Departed Friends

℣. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world;
℟. Grant them Thine eternal peace.

LORD, have mercy upon us.
CHRIST, have mercy upon us.
LORD, have mercy upon us.

Our Father.

℣. From the gates of hell;
℟. Deliver their souls, O Lord.
℣. Eternal rest give unto them;
℟. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

℣. Lord, hear our prayer;
℟. And let our crying come unto Thee.

Let us pray.

O ALMIGHTY God, unto Whom all live, we beseech Thee to remember the spirits of all flesh who have departed this life in the hope of Thy appearing, especially our parents, friends, kinsfolk, and benefactors. Grant them, O Lord, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and peace, in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, where all sighing and sadness are banished away, and the light of Thy countenance shineth for ever. Amen.

HASTEN, O Lord, the day when Thou shalt send Him Whom Thou wilt send, at Whose coming the heaven and earth shall be moved. Under the veil of earthly things we now behold Him as through a glass darkly, but then shall we behold Him face to face. In that day deliver us, and place us at His right hand. Amen.

℣. Deliver us, O Lord, in that tremendous day;
℟. When Thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

MAY the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
An Act of Intercession

JESU, we now devoutly pray
For those beyond our sight,
That they may find eternal Day
And everlasting Light;
That, having passed from earthly bounds
to mansions of delight,
They may go on from Glory unto Glory
Infinite.

For all the souls that rest in Thee,
Our thankful praise we give,
May they in undimmed vision see
Thy beauteous Face and live;
Here, 'mid unholy mists of sin, unveiled
Thou couldst not be,
But in the Courts of Joy Thou canst
reveal Thy Deity.

Most Merciful, we fain would pray
For all who loved Thee not,
And still unloving, passed away
Into some darksome spot,

Where Thou, Eternal Joy of Saints,
must ever be forgot
By those who do not seek for Thee,
and still desire Thee not.

Grant all at last to know Thee, LORD,
Returning to Thy Feet,
And, deeply contrite, be restored
Unto Thy Presence sweet;
That one and all by Thee redeemed, in
Thy good time may meet,
Through penitence be purified, made
perfect and complete.

G. M

The Archbishop of Canterbury

on Prayer for the Dead in the
Church of England

"THE subject of prayers definitely
offered on behalf of those whose
life on earth is ended, is shrouded in
so much mystery as to call for the utmost
care and reserve on our part in handling
it. "God is in heaven and we upon earth; therefore let our words be few." The Church of England, it is hardly necessary to say, has nowhere declared it to be unlawful or erroneous to believe in the propriety and efficacy of such petitions. I desire loyally to maintain the distinction, markedly drawn by Bishop Andrewes and other great Anglican divines, between those beliefs, based upon definite scriptural proof, the teaching of which is incorporated in our public formularies, and on the other hand opinions and beliefs which fall short of such definite proof. If the distinction be borne in mind, I have no doubt at all that prayers for the dead are permissible to loyal sons and daughters of our Church so long as they do not imply a condition of the departed which our Article XXII ("Of Purgatory") has definitely condemned."
## Friends at Rest

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