



Prayer  
With  
One  
Who Is Dying

From the Catholic Conference of Kentucky Pro-Life Committee

## Notes on Using the Prayer Service

The services in this collection were designed for a variety of settings, and we encourage you to adapt them to your particular needs. This service can be prayed in parts, over the duration of the vigil, as desired. The role of the leader can be shared by one or more persons. Some advance preparation such as handouts or candles may be required. Suggested hymns are widely available.

**GATHERING HYMN** *Be Not Afraid* (Bob Dufford, SJ )

### GATHERING PRAYER

**Leader:** We come together in prayer as we have done so many times before, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Response:** Amen.

**Leader:** God of all compassion, in love you created (name), and in love you have walked with (him, her) throughout (his, her) life on this earth. Now you are calling (name) home to you. Now is the time of transition from this earthly life to (his, her) eternal home, with you and all those who have gone before.

Lord God of hope and mercy, we know that you remain with (name) now and always. Comfort (him, her) with your promise of salvation. Assure (him, her) that the trials of this earth bring us nearer to you.

Remind (name) of those loved ones who have gone before (him, her) into eternal life. May they be reunited in joy: [names of dear departed].

O compassionate Lord, we ask that you guide and guard (name) on this journey home. May we assist (him, her) with our prayers and loving support. All this we ask this through Jesus Christ, our savior and brother.

**Response:** Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

**First Reading:** (*Psalms 23*) A reading from the book of Psalms.

The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I lack.  
In green pastures you let me graze;  
to safe waters you lead me;  
you restore my strength.  
You guide me along the right path  
for the sake of your name.  
Even when I walk through a dark valley,  
I fear no harm for you are at my side;  
your rod and staff give me courage.  
You set a table before me  
as my enemies watch;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Only goodness and love will pursue me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

The word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Pause** for silent reflection.

**Second Reading:** (John 14: 1-6, 27) A reading from the Gospel of John

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where [I] am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, 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.... Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Pause** for silent reflection.

**PRAYER** The Jesus Prayer

**Leader:** God has shown us his mercy throughout our lives. Remembering his love and compassion, let us say together three times, slowly and softly, the Jesus Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**Response:** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. (3x)

**INTERCESSIONS**

**Leader:** In faith and hope, let us place our petitions before the Lord. I invite everyone here to name people, groups, and intentions that are beloved of (name) and the family. Please respond to each petition: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**First Petition:** For..., we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Second Petition:** For..., we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Other Petitions:** For..., we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Leader:** Let us pray together the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

**Response:** Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be.... Amen.

**HYMN** *Eye Has Not Seen* (Marty Haugen)

**PRAYER**

**Leader:** Loving God, you so loved the world and your servant (name) that you sent your beloved son Jesus to come to earth, with all its joys and sorrows, in order to save us from our sins. Through his death he vanquished death. Through his cross he conquered sin.

Whatever sins and failings have separated (name) from you, forgive them. Show (him, her) your boundless mercy. Receive (him, her) into the joy of your kingdom, where (he, she) has an everlasting home. We ask this in confidence in the name of Jesus our savior and brother, through the Holy Spirit, with you, one God forever and ever.

**Response:** Amen

**Leader:** We also pray for ourselves as we prepare for the passing of our beloved (name). Loving God, may your peace, which surpasses all that the world has to offer, bless us, 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.

**Response:** Amen.

[Choose additional prayers and hymns as desired. See suggestions below.]

**Leader:** Let us exchange a sign of peace with one another. [Pause.]

Now may we all go in peace.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

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Additional prayers and songs may be voiced during the bedside vigil. For example:

**Hymns:**

*I, the Lord* (Tom Kendzia)  
*Amazing Grace*  
*Abide with Me*  
*In the Garden*  
*What Wondrous Love Is This?*  
*O Lord I Am Not Worthy*  
*Immaculate Mary*

**Prayers:**

The Rosary  
The Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
The Divine Praises  
The Litany of the Saints  
The Apostles' Creed  
The Prayer of Saint Francis  
Prayer to Our Guardian Angel  
The Angelus

**Hail, Holy Queen**

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning, and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

**Memorare** (St. Bernard)

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

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