

Prayer Service for a Colleague Who Has Died

INTRODUCTION

Let us begin this time of prayer for our departed colleague _____ with the sign of the cross, through which we have been made heirs to Christ's gift of eternal life:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPTIONAL: OPENING SONG

Suggested: *Be Not Afraid* (B. Dufford); *Blest Are They* (D. Haas); *Here I Am, Lord* (D. Schutte); *How Great Thou Art* (traditional); *On Eagle's Wings* (M. Joncas); *Like a Shepherd* (B. Dufford); *Shelter Me O God* (B. Hurd); *Lord of All Hopefulness* (traditional); *I am the Bread of Life* (JM. Talbott); *Prayer of St. Francis* (S. Temple)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we gather in the name of Jesus your Risen Son, praying with him and through him for our friend and colleague who has passed away. We ask you to hear our prayer and speak to us through your holy word, as we turn to you in faith, hope and love. We make this prayer through this same Jesus, your Son. Amen.

READING

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Rom 8:31b-35, 37-39)

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yet, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

OPTIONAL: PAUSE FOR MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION, SONG, VIDEO OR INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the Church. That Christians everywhere will be always ready to console one

another with the hope of Christ's resurrection. We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the world. For increased love, compassion and solidarity among all God's children. We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who struggle with illness and their own mortality. For their healing and peace. We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who grieve the loss of a friend or loved one. That God, who knows the depths of their hearts, will send them the comfort and reassurances they need. We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for ourselves. That our Christian hope might be strengthened, our faith deepened, and love renewed by the Risen Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

Optional: For our own intentions (can be voiced)... We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

And let us unite all our prayers to the constant prayer of Jesus before the Father on our behalf, using the words he gave us: *Our Father...*

CLOSING PRAYER

Into your hands, Gentle Father, we place our prayers for our departed friend, _____.

In your mercy, forgive him/her his/her sins, and admit him/her to your heavenly kingdom,

Where the sorrows and pain of this life are no more,

And the fullness of your joy reigns forever.

Pour out your Holy Spirit's comfort upon all who grieve his/her passing,

And fill them with Christ's peace, which surpasses all understanding

To sustain them through these difficult days.

Strengthen the gift of hope you have planted in our hearts,

That we might be salt for the earth and light for the world

For one another and all who struggle

Along this pilgrim way

To our heavenly home.

And for all our departed friends and loved ones, we pray:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed

Through the mercy of God,

Rest in peace.

We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus your Risen Son,

Who is Lord.

Amen.

OPTIONAL: SIGN OF PEACE

And now, let us exchange a sign of peace.

CLOSING BLESSING:

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPTIONAL: CLOSING SONG

(See opening song suggestions, above)