

Prayer of the Faithful

Here are some options for the Prayer of the Faithful. The Prayer of the Faithful is bookmarked with an introduction and closing prayer by the Presider.

Options for Introduction (pick one):

1. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in Jesus, we join our prayers to his.
2. God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we bring our prayers to God.
3. My dear friends, let us join with one another in bringing our prayers to God.

The reader will always begin by saying (after a brief intro from the presider)...

Our response is "Lord, hear our prayer."

Please pick 6-9 prayers overall. Here are some common options to begin with (please indicate which number you'd like), which should include at least one intention for the deceased and one of their life in Christ (i.e. Baptism). The intentions have been organized into categories for your convenience:

For the deceased:

1. That God may establish N. in light and peace, we pray...
2. That God may call N. to happiness in the company of all the saints, we pray...
3. That God will receive our praise and thanksgiving for the life of N., we pray...
4. That God will lead N. from death to life, we pray...

For the deceased's life in Christ:

1. In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead them over waters of death. We pray...
2. For N. who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that they may now be admitted to the company of the saints, we pray...
3. For N. who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, may they be raised up on the last day, we pray...

For others who have died (feel free to include names):

1. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, may they see God face-to-face, we pray...
2. That God may give a place in the reign of heaven to all the faithful departed, we pray...
3. That God will grant peace to all who have died in the faith of Christ, we pray...
4. That our friends and family members who have gone before us may be granted an everlasting home with your Son, we pray...
5. For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us; may they have the rewards of their goodness, we pray...
6. That God may welcome into glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life, we pray...

For loved ones who are present at the funeral:

1. That the family and friends of N., who seek comfort and consolation may be healed in their pain, dispelling darkness and doubt that comes from grief, we pray...
2. That we who are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for N. may be strengthened in hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming, we pray...

3. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, may we be gathered together again in God's reign, we pray...
4. That all of us, N.'s family and friends, may be comforted in our grief, we pray...

Others:

1. That caregivers and hospice workers may continue to be strengthened in their ministry, we pray...
2. That those in the military may be protected in their service as they strive to promote peace and justice, and that we may always remember our veterans, we pray...
3. That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God, we pray...
4. That God will grant release to those who suffer, we pray...
5. That those in public office may promote justice and peace, we pray...
6. That those who serve and provide safety for others, especially law enforcement and firefighters, may be kept safe, we pray...
7. For the care of our creation, especially woods and wildlife, we pray...
8. That we work together to care for God's creation, especially our oceans and all its creatures, we pray...
9. That we work together to build a society to care for others, especially children who are sick or have special needs, we pray...
10. That organizations like XXX that work to alleviate suffering may have our continued support, we pray...
11. For all who care for others, especially doctors and nurses and the caregivers at XXX, we pray...
12. That God will bring light and peace through to us to those who struggle with addictions, hunger, and those experiencing homelessness, we pray...
13. For the sick, the poor, and the suffering, that the great love of God living in each one of us may restore them to health and hope, we pray...

Other options to consider (we can help you frame these appropriately, i.e. “For all those who care for others, especially nurses, we pray...”):

- Are there other concerns that you’d like to pray for (i.e. a specific cause)?
- Would you like to pray for a specific vocation (i.e. those who work in the medical field or those in the military)?
- Is there something else that you’d like to consider that would be important to the deceased (i.e. would like to pray for a good harvest)?

Options for Presider Closing Prayer (pick one):

- a. Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of Jesus Christ and the voices of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- b. God, our shelter and our strength, we listen in love to the cry of your people; hear the prayers we offer. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- c. Lord God, you entrusted our departed to our care and now you embrace them in your love. Take them into your keeping together with all who have died. Comfort us, your sorrowing servants, who seek to do your will and to know your saving peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response for Closing Prayer by all: “Amen”

Please bring these options with you in planning the funeral. Thank you!

***Please stay standing until the Presider has finished with his prayer.*