

Ministry at the Time of Death



Compiled by the Church of England

Suitable for use with Anglicans by anyone offering Spiritual Care in Australia, including family, being mindful of the limitations of gathering, touch and transmission risk requirements. Paper is not to be used unless copies are laminated and cleaned.

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Useful Bible Verses

One or more of the following short texts may be said with the dying person. They may be softly repeated two or three times.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
(Romans 8.35)

Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
(Romans 14.8)

Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. (Romans 14.9)

We know that we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
(2 Corinthians 5.1)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. (Psalm 25.1)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? (Psalm 27.1)

Into your hands I commend my spirit; for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. (Psalm 31.5)

My soul is a thirst for God, even for the living God.
(Psalm 42.2)

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
(John 14.2)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3.22,23)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, 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.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reconciliation

You (if gloved) may lay hands on the dying person.

God, the Father of mercies, has reconciled the world to himself through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, not counting our trespasses against us, but sending his Holy Spirit to shed abroad his love among us. By the ministry of reconciliation entrusted by Christ to his Church we receive his pardon and peace to stand before him in his strength alone, this day and evermore.

Amen.

This prayer may be used

Eternal God, grant to your servant [and to us who surround him/her with our prayers] your peace. Give us faith, the comfort of your presence, and the words to say to one another and to you, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Laying on of Hands and Anointing

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I lay my hands on you, N.

May the Lord in his mercy and love uphold you by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

May he deliver you from all evil, give you light and peace, and bring you to everlasting life.

Amen.

When the anointing is completed, you may add

As you are outwardly anointed with this holy oil, so may our heavenly Father grant you the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit. In his great mercy he forgives us our sins and releases us from suffering, he delivers us from all evil and preserves us in all goodness to bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

N, go forth upon your journey from this world, in the name of God the Father almighty who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ who suffered death for you; in the name of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you; in communion with the blessed saints, and aided by angels and archangels, and all the armies of the

heavenly host. May your portion this day be in peace, and your dwelling the heavenly Jerusalem. Amen.

(and/or)

Gracious God, nothing in death or life, nothing in the world as it is, nothing in the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation can separate us from your love. Jesus commended his spirit into your hands at his last hour. Into those same hands we now commend your servant N, that dying to the world and cleansed from sin, death may be for him/her the gate to life and to eternal fellowship with you;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One or more of the following may also be used

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2.29-32)

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen

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 upon us, and remain with us always. Amen.

Prayer when someone has just died

No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him. Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be comforted. Into your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brother/sister N. In this life you embraced him/her with your tender love and opened to him/her the gate of heaven. The old order has passed away, as you welcome him/her into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Heavenly Father, into whose hands Jesus Christ commended his spirit at the last hour: into those same hands we now commend your servant N, that death may be for him/her the gate to life and to eternal fellowship with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, surround the family of N with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.