

BLESSING

69 The leader says:

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labours
for their good deeds go with them.

A gesture, for example, signing the forehead of the deceased with the sign of the cross, may accompany the following words.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

℟. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

May his/her soul
and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

All present may be invited to make this same gesture, if they wish. The leader then invokes God's blessing, saying:

May the love of God
and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and 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.
Amen.

A few moments of quiet will provide a fitting conclusion to this rite. Those present may wish to sprinkle the body with holy water.

PRAYERS AFTER DEATH

from *Commendation of the Dying*

67 When death has occurred, one or more of the following prayers may be said:

A Saints of God, come to his/her aid!
Hasten to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!

℟. Receive his/her soul and present him/her
to God the Most High.

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham. ℟.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. ℟.

The following prayer is added.

Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer.

All-powerful and merciful God,
we commend to you N., your servant.
In your mercy and love,
blot out the sins he/she has committed
through human weakness.
In this world he/she has died:
let him/her live with you for ever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

B Psalm 129 (130)

℟ My soul hopes in the Lord.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. ℟

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on God's word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than those who watch for daybreak. ℟

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed God will redeem
from all its iniquity. ℟

The following prayer is added.

Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer.

God of faithfulness,
in your wisdom you have called your servant N.
out of this world;
release him/her from the bonds of sin,
and welcome him/her into your presence,
so that he/she may enjoy eternal light and peace
and be raised up in glory with all your saints.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

68 *One of the following prayers may be said.*

Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer.

A *For the family and friends.*

Father of mercies and God of all consolation,
you pursue us with untiring love
and dispel the shadow of death
with the bright dawn of life.

[Comfort your family in their loss and sorrow.
Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord,
and lift us from the depths of grief
into the peace and light of your presence.]

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying has destroyed our death,
and by rising, restored our life.
Enable us therefore to press on towards him,
so that, after our earthly course is run,
he may reunite us with those we love,
when every tear will be wiped away.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

B *For the deceased person and for the family and friends.*

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer,
you willingly gave yourself up to death,
so that all might be saved and pass from death to life.
We humbly ask you to comfort your servants in their grief
and to receive N. into the arms of your mercy.
You alone are the Holy One,
you are mercy itself;
by dying you unlocked the gates of life
for those who believe in you.
Forgive N. his/her sins,
and grant him/her a place of happiness, light, and peace
in the kingdom of your glory for ever.
Amen.