

Prayer Service to Celebrate the Life of _____ Female _____



Opening Prayer

Lord of Life and Death,

We pray for the soul of our beloved friend, _____. Your breath gave her life. Your presence sustained her life, and your hand holds her now at the end of life. Thank you for the gift of life that _____ was to our Church, her family, and all who knew her. Through her witness and her love, she brought the Good News of Jesus to all who met her. As she lies in eternal peace in your arms, help us to mourn her death and celebrate her life, now and forever.

AMEN.

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (Rom 6:3-9)

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Intercessions:

Leader: *Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord, we join our prayers to his:*

Reader: *Our response is, "hear our prayer!"*

In baptism ____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead her over the waters of death. Lord, in your mercy: [response]

Our sister was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy: [response]

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the Kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. Lord, in your mercy: [response]

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. Lord, in your mercy: [response]

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to those whose faith is known to you alone. Lord, in your mercy: [response]

The family and friends of ____ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. Lord, in your mercy: [response]

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our sister _____. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. Lord, in your mercy: [response]

Leader. *Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ, and grant them a place in the kingdom. We ask this through Christ the Lord. Amen.*

Leader: *We now pray to the Blessed Mother, advocate and comforter. Remembering that _____ called upon Mary to be with her "now and at the hour of her death."*

Hail Mary. . . .

Closing Prayer

Lord,

_____ is gone from this earthly dwelling and has left behind those who mourn her absence. Grant that as we grieve for our sister we may hold her memory dear and live in the hope of the eternal kingdom where you will bring us together again.

Lord, our God, the death of our sister recalls our human condition and the brevity of our lives on earth. But, for those who believe in your love death is not the end, nor does it destroy the bonds that you forge in our lives.

We share the faith of your Son's disciples and the hope of the children of God. Bring the light of Christ's resurrection to this time of testing and pain as we pray for _____ and those who love her through Christ our Lord.

*Taken from the Rites for
the Pastoral Care of the Sick and Dying, 1982,
Prayers After Death*

Leader: Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon her.

Leader: May she rest in peace.

All: Amen.

Leader: May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

All: Amen.