

PRAYERS *for a* VIGIL

It is appropriate that family and friends come together prior to a funeral. This rite may be used on such an occasion, whether at the church, a funeral home, or elsewhere.

The Minister says

Dear Friends: It was our Lord Jesus himself who said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Let us pray, then, for our *brother* N., that *he* may rest from *his* labors, and enter into God's eternal Sabbath rest.

A psalm may be prayed. Psalms 23 and 121 are particularly appropriate.

One or more of the following Lessons is read.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-15

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

JOHN 14:2-3

The following and other additional prayers may be said. The Litany at the Time of Death (pages 237-239) may also be used.

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant N., being raised with Christ, may know the strength of his presence and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: deal graciously with those who mourn [especially _____]. Surround them 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Minister says

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

Minister and People say together

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And 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.**

The Minister says

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
ROMANS 15:13

The Minister may say

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

People **And may light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.**