

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

Dearly beloved: It was our Lord Jesus himself who said, "Come unto me, all ye that 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 I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

I THESSALONIANS 4:13-15

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye 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 thy Son Jesus Christ didst destroy death and bring life and immortality to light: Grant that thy servant *N.*, being raised with Christ, may know the strength of his presence and rejoice in his eternal glory; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: deal graciously with those who mourn [especially _____]. Surround them with thy love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in thy great goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Minister says

And now as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say

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 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.

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^T

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.