

The Universal Prayer / Prayer of the Faithful OPTION 1

Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead. With confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

1. For _____ who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life: may s/he now be admitted to the company of the saints.
We pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For _____ who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life: may s/he be raised up on the last day.
We pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.
3. For the family and friends of our brother/sister _____: may they be consoled in their grief by the Lord Jesus, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.
We pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.
4. For our deceased relatives and friends, and for all who have helped us: may they have the reward of their goodness.
We pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.
5. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again: may they see God face to face.
We pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.
6. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith: may we be gathered together again in your kingdom.
We pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPTION 2

Priest: My dear friends, let us join with one another in praying to God, not only for our departed brother/sister, but also for the Church, for peace in the world, and for ourselves.

For the bishops, priests and all who lead within the Church and preach the Gospel, that they are given the strength to express in action the Word they proclaim.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in public office, that they promote justice, peace and the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body, that they never feel forsaken by God or by us. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

That God in his mercy may deliver the soul of his servant _____ and blot out all his/her offenses

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

That God may establish his son/daughter _____ in light and peace of the eternal Kingdom and call him to happiness in company of all the saints.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

That God may welcome into His glory those of our families and friends who have departed this life. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

That God give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Priest: O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of your departed servants release from all their sins. Hear our prayers for those we love, and give them the pardon they have always desired. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPTION 3

Priest: 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 Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

1. In baptism _____ received the light of Christ.
Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.
Lord, in your mercy... Response: Hear our prayer.
2. _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior.
Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.
Lord, in your mercy... Response: Hear our prayer.
3. 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: Hear our prayer.
4. 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: Hear our prayer.
5. Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone.
Lord, in your mercy... Response: Hear our prayer.
6. 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: Hear our prayer.
7. We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister N.
Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.
Lord, in your mercy... Response: Hear our prayer.

Priest: 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 our Lord.
Amen.

OPTION 4 (For a deceased child)

Priest: The Lord Jesus is the lover of his people and our only sure hope. Let us ask him to deepen our faith and sustain us in this dark hour.

You became a little child for our sake, sharing our human life: to you we pray,
Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You grew in wisdom, age, and grace, and learned obedience through suffering:
to you we pray,
Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You welcomed children, promising them your kingdom: to you we pray,
Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You comforted those who mourned the loss of children and friends: to you we pray,
Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You took upon yourself the suffering and death of us all: to you we pray,
Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You promised to raise up those who believe in you just as you were raised up in glory
by the Father: to you we pray,
Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

Priest: Lord God, you entrusted N. to our care and now you embrace him/her in your love. Take _____ into your keeping together with all children who have died. Comfort us, your sorrowing servants, who seek to do your will and to know your saving peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPTION 5 (For a deceased child)

Priest: Let us pray for _____, his/her family and friends, and for all God's people.

For _____, child of God [and heir to the kingdom]: may s/he be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity, we pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For N.'s family, especially his/her mother and father, [his/her brother(s) and sister(s)]: may they feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief, we pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For _____'s friends, those who played with him/her and those who cared for him/her: may they be consoled in their loss and strengthened in their love for one another, we pray to the
Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all parents who grieve over the death of their children: may they be comforted in the knowledge that their children dwell with God, we pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For children who have died of hunger and disease: may these little ones be seated close to the Lord at his heavenly table, we pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the whole Church: may we prepare worthily for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name to pass from this world to the next, we pray to the Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Lord God, you entrusted _____ to our care, and now you embrace him/her in your love. Take _____ into your keeping, together will all children who have died. Comfort us, your sorrowing servants, who seek to do your will and to know your saving peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.