



A PRAYER AT HOME ON THE DAY OF A FUNERAL THAT YOU CANNOT ATTEND

It is so difficult when you cannot attend a funeral, whether for family, friend or neighbour. Many are facing this reality during the current Covid-19 crisis. Below is a prayer that you can offer at home with loved ones. You might ask others to take part at the same time from their own home.

When the time of social distancing is over, we will have the opportunity to offer the usual memorial services at church. Your memories now can be part of that experience when the time comes in the future.

**“Neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,
shall be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” - Romans 8: 38-39**

Stand before your icons, light a candle or an oil lamp, the censer, and maybe have a photo of the person who has entered eternal life, as well. Think about those who are at the funeral and also pray for them.

Where it says N. you should say the name of the departed person.

Start to pray:

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

With the spirits of the righteous made perfect in death give rest, O Saviour, to the soul of your servant; keeping it for the life of blessedness with you, O Lover of mankind.

In your repose where all your saints find rest, give rest, O Lord, to the soul[s] of your servant[s], for you alone are immortal.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

You are our God who descended into Hell and did away with the pains of those who had been bound; give rest, O Saviour, also to the soul of your servant.

Both now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O only pure and spotless Virgin, who bore God without seed, intercede for the salvation of the soul of your servant.

Then sing or say the Evlogitaria

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.

The choir of Saints has found the source of life and the door of Paradise; may I too find the way through repentance; I am the lost sheep, call me back, O Saviour, and save me.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.

Of old you formed me from nothing and honoured me with your divine image, but because I transgressed your commandment, you returned me to the earth from which I was taken; bring me back to your likeness, my ancient beauty.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.

I am an image of your ineffable glory, though I bear the marks of offences; take pity on your creature, Master, and with compassion cleanse me; and give me the longed-for fatherland, making me once again a citizen of Paradise.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.

Give rest, O God, to your servant[s], and settle them [him/her] in Paradise, where the choirs of the Saints and all the Just shine out like beacons; give rest to your servant[s] who has/have fallen asleep, overlooking all their [his/her] offences.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Let us devoutly hymn the threefold light of the one Godhead as we cry: Holy are you, the Father without beginning, the Son likewise without beginning and the divine Spirit; enlighten us who worship you in faith, and snatch us from the everlasting fire.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Hail, O Gracious Lady, who bore God in the flesh for the salvation of all; through you the human race has found salvation; through you may we find Paradise, O pure and blessed Mother of God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to you, O God (Three times).

Then sing or say:

With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of your servant, where there is no pain, nor grief, nor sighing, but everlasting life.

You alone are immortal, who made and fashioned mankind; we mortals then were formed from earth and to that same earth we shall go, as You who formed me commanded saying: You are earth, and you will go back to earth; to which all we mortals will go making our funeral lament a song: Alleluia.

Two Bible readings appointed for funerals.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

The Gospel of John 5: 24-30

Finally, a prayer for the bereaved:

Lord, Lord,
the consolation of the afflicted,
the comfort of the grieving and the help of all in distress,
in your compassion console those who are afflicted by grief for the departed;
heal all the pain of sorrow that lies heavy upon their hearts and to your servant N. who has fallen asleep in the hope of Resurrection give rest in the bosom of Abraham.

For you are the Resurrection, the Life and the repose of your departed servant N. Christ our God, and to you we give glory together with your Father who is without beginning and the all-Holy, Good, and Life-creating Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Petitions for the dead, during the Divine Liturgy and Memorials, are addressed to God because we hope and believe in His philanthropy and compassion, His mercy and loving kindness. It is clear, that with our prayers for the departed, we only ask from God what is pleasing to Him, since God is the source of love and mercy and “desires all people to be saved” (1 Tim. 2:4).

For some people, loss is sudden and unexpected, and for others, even though they know their loved one is dying, when it happens it comes as a great shock, and they are overwhelmed by unexpected feelings. Everyone experiences grief in their own way, but there are certain stages to the process of mourning. People’s responses to grief will vary depending upon the circumstances of the death. Grieving is exhausting, both physically and emotionally. Our Church tradition guides us through this process, and encourages us to mourn for our loved ones while holding in our hearts conviction and promise of eternal life.

As Christians, however, we live in the certain hope of the Resurrection and the knowledge of eternal life.

Further help, support and resources on the understanding of death by the Orthodox Church can be found through your local parish and our website.

Find the details of your local parish on www.thyateira.org.uk