

Universal Prayers

(Prayers of the Faithful / General Intercessions)

You may use one of the following formulas, combine parts of several together, adapt the material below to your circumstances, or compose one of your own.

If you chose to write your own, those given here can serve as models. The various intentions should express the congregation's prayerful concern for others throughout the world. This naturally includes the deceased and bereaved, but also should reach out to persons in the community, the nation and beyond our shores to those who are in need of support.

Invite the people's response with an invitation at the end of each petition, like, "Lord, in your mercy," "We pray to the Lord," "Lord, have mercy," "Let us pray to the Lord," or "To you we pray."

Sample Group 1

The PRIEST begins: 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:

READER:

In Baptism N. _____ received the light of Christ, scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

Response: Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Our brother/sister N. _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. /**R**

(For a religious): Our brother/sister N. _____ spent his/her life following Jesus, poor, chaste, and obedient. Count him/her among all holy men and women who sing in your courts. /**R**

(For a bishop or priest): Our brother N. _____ shared in the priesthood of Jesus Christ, leading God's people in prayer and worship. Bring him into your presence where he will take his place in the heavenly liturgy. /**R**

(For a deacon): Our brother N. _____ served God's people as a deacon of the Church. Prepare a place for him in the kingdom whose coming he proclaimed. /**R**

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. /**R**

Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer unjustly these sins against your love and gather them into the eternal kingdom of peace. /**R**

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. /**R**

The family and friends of N. _____ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief. /**R**

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. /**R**

The PRIEST then concludes: 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.

R. Amen

Sample Group 2

The PRIEST begins:

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

READER:

For N. _____, who in Baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. /**R**

For our deceased relative and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. /**R**

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. /**R**

For the family and friends of our brother/sister N. _____, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. /**R**

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. /**R**

The PRIEST then concludes:

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.

R. Amen

Sample Group 3

The PRIEST begins:

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.

READER:

That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the word they proclaim.

To you we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those in public office may promote justice and peace. /**R**

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God. /**R**

That God may deliver the soul of his servant N. _____, from punishment and from the powers of darkness. /**R**

That God in his mercy may blot out all his/her offenses. /**R**

That God may establish him/her in light and peace. /**R**

That God may call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints. /**R**

That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life. /**R**

That God may give a place in the kingdom of Heaven to all the faithful departed. /**R**

The PRIEST then concludes:

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.

R. Amen