



Prayers during the Wake of the deceased.

During a wake it may happen that family members would like to have a structured time of prayer beside the deceased. Sometimes, however, they find it difficult because they can't find the words or because no-one feels comfortable taking the lead. In these circumstances, the rosary – even a single decade – is the ideal prayer to use. But if the family would like a more varied prayer session, they might consider using the following suggestions.

Let one member of the family or a family friend take the lead, as people gather round the remains. Wait until everyone is gathered near the bed or coffin. Then ask one person to light a candle in the centre of the group.

All: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: We gather as family and friends who loved in this life. Now that he/she has gone from us we come into the Lord's presence to remember and give thanks for the good the Lord has done in him/her and the richness that we have received. We also ask the Lord's forgiveness for all his/her faults and sins and entrust his/her soul to the tender mercy of God.

READINGS

Choose one of the following readings. Perhaps the family will gather at different times during the wake, making use of a different reading each time. The reader should call for a moment of silent thought after the reading, before moving on to the prayers.

Leader: We comfort ourselves by listening to a short reading from the Word of God.

1. A Reading from The Book of Ecclesiastes

To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven;
A time to be born, a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and a time to dance;
A time to keep and a time to cast away.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Pause for silent reflection.

Prayer: We have known the time for planting, for laughing and for dancing. The joys of happier days can never be taken from us. Let those joys soften the pain of our suffering now. May our acceptance of this time of sadness help to prepare us for future joys with you and with in your Kingdom of peace and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

2. A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

But now, thus says the Lord who created you;
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name and you are mine.
When you pass through the water, I will be with you;
In the river you shall not drown.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned;
The flames shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God, your Saviour.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Pause for silent reflection.

Prayer: Lord, we are grieving now for someone we loved and cherished. The experience of death and bereavement can stir up in us feelings of fear for the future and lack of confidence. Renew our confidence that you are always with us no matter what trials face us now or in the future. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

3. A Reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew

Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Pause for silent reflection.

Prayer: Lord, the loss of our beloved is a weight and burden to us who mourn him/her. In this time of mourning we need to meet you who are meek and humble of heart. Give us rest for ourselves and bring into your presence

forever. May we all be united one day in the love of your divine heart. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader: Lord we have loved in this life and will sorely miss him/her. Out of that love we pray that you take him/her to yourself, forgive his/her sins and give him/her eternal joy with you.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: As we grieve we know that at this very time others are grieving great losses too. Teach us to be sensitive to the sufferings and pains of others. Help us to take strength from the community of our brothers and sisters in the faith.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: We pray for those others, whom we may not know, whom touched during his/her life. May we all be united one day in the joy of Heaven.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: We pray for anyone whom offended against during his/her life. We pray that you will heal their hurt. Lead us all to the harmony and peace of God's children.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: We pray for the whole people of God. Give us all the grace, in our own neighbourhood and throughout the world to be a light of truth, justice and love.

Lord hear us

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

At this point the Leader should invite all present to voice a particular prayer.

Leader: Let us pray together in the words that Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father...

All: Glory be to the Father...

Leader: Let us pray:

Lord God, you are compassion and love;
Our loved one has been called home to you.

Welcome him/her into the love of heaven; console us in our loss and make us truly grateful for all he/she was to us in life.

Fill our home now empty with his/her loss with your love and care. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen (*Each person may like to sprinkle the remains of the deceased with holy water.*)

A decade of the rosary would be appropriate here.

Leader: The first glorious mystery of the rosary: "The Resurrection".

(1) 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. Amen.

(10) Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. + Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

(1) Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. + As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(1) O My Jesus, + forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen

(1) Hail holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us. And after this our exile show unto us the blessed Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May he/she rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer of Solace

May Christ support us all the day long, till the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last.

Amen.