

Universal Prayer

(Choose 5 – one from each section A-E)

Following the homily, all will stand and join in the Universal Prayer (often called the “Petitions”). The presider will introduce them and then the prayers will be read. Following are suggested prayers. If other prayers choose to be written, please discuss this with the presider. You may choose a friend or family member to read them or they will be read by the priest or deacon.

The reader will begin by saying, “Our response will be, ‘Lord, hear our prayer.’”

A1. In baptism [NAME] received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him(her) over the waters of death. Let us pray to the Lord.

A2. We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother(sister) [NAME]. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son’s coming. Let us pray to the Lord.

B1. For [NAME] who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he(she) may now be admitted to the company of the saints. Let us pray to the Lord.

B2. Our brother(sister) [NAME] was nourished at the table of the Lord. Welcome him(her) into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Let us pray to the Lord.

B3. 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. Let us pray to the Lord.

C1. We pray for [NAME]’s family, that the Lord will fill the present emptiness in their hearts with the love and prayerful support of many friends. Let us pray to the Lord.

C2. For the family and friends of [NAME], that they may seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and the doubt that comes from grief. Let us pray to the Lord.

C3. For the family and friends of our brother(sister) [NAME], that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. Let us pray to the Lord.

C4. For each of us with whom [NAME] so generously shared his(her) many gifts, may we, too, grow in the ability to share our gifts and lighten the burdens of others. Let us pray to the Lord.

(over)

- D1. For all those who loved and were loved by [NAME], that we may find comfort in our belief in the Lord's promise to us of eternal life. Let us pray to the Lord.
 - D2. For each of us here present, that God will bless us richly with the gifts He knows we need to fully celebrate life and recognize the new beginning which he offers us each day. Let us pray to the Lord.
 - D3. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.
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- E1. 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. Let us pray to the Lord.
 - E2. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom [ESPECIALLY...]. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. Let us pray to the Lord.
 - E3. For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us [ESPECIALLY...], that they may have the reward of their goodness. Let us pray to the Lord.
 - E4. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again [ESPECIALLY...], that they may see God face to face. Let us pray to the Lord.
 - E5. That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life, [ESPECIALLY...]. Let us pray to the Lord.
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(Alternate prayers; add one of these or replace one of the above with one of these)

- F1. 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. Let us pray to the Lord.
- F2. For all those people who ministered to [NAME] during his(her) illness, that they may be blessed in abundance with God's love for them. Let us pray to the Lord.
- F3. 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. Let us pray to the Lord.
- F4. That those in public office may work to promote peace and justice. Let us pray to the Lord.