

## Funeral Prayers

**Funeral prayers** are short writings that provide encouragement and strength which many families have used to reflect and remember their loved one. Funeral prayers can also be read aloud in the memorial service and is the perfect additional to any of our templates.

The following is a selection of popular funeral prayers. Use them inside your funeral programs, thank you notes, graduated programs, memorial cards, bookmarks, and/or prayer cards. They are appropriate to use in any of these memorial service keepsake items.

### Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
when there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand,  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying [to ourselves]  
that we are born to eternal life.

### Student's Prayer

Creator of all things,  
true source of Light and Wisdom,  
lofty source of all Being,  
graciously let a ray of  
Your Brilliance penetrate into the darkness  
of my understanding and take from me the  
double darkness in which I have been born;  
sin and ignorance.  
Give me a sharp sense of understanding,  
a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp  
things correctly and fundamentally.  
Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations,  
and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm.  
Point out the beginning, direct the progress,  
help in the completion.

Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord

## Serenity Prayer

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God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
Forever in the next.  
Amen.

--Reinhold Niebuhr

## Prayer for the Departed

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God our Father,  
Your power brings us to birth,  
Your providence guides our lives,  
and by Your command we return to dust.

Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,  
their lives change but do not end.  
I pray in hope for my family,  
relatives and friends,  
and for all the dead known to You alone.

In company with Christ,  
Who died and now lives,  
may they rejoice in Your kingdom,  
where all our tears are wiped away.  
Unite us together again in one family,  
to sing Your praise forever and ever.  
Amen.

## Novena to St. Jude

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Most Merciful Jesus,  
lover of souls,  
I pray You,  
by the agony of Your most Sacred Heart,  
and by the sorrows of Your Immaculate Mother,  
to wash in Your Most Precious Blood,  
the sinners of the world who are now in their agony,  
and who will die today.

Heart of Jesus,  
once in agony,  
have mercy on the dying.

Amen.

## The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted, for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

## The Mourner's Kaddish

Magnified and sanctified  
May His great Name be  
In the world that He created,  
As He wills  
And may His kingdom come  
In your lives and in your days  
And in the lives of all the house of Israel  
Swiftly and soon  
And say all amen!

Amen!  
May His great Name be blessed  
Always and forever!

Blessed and praised  
and glorified  
and raised  
and exalted  
and honored  
and uplifted  
and lauded  
be the Name of the Holy One  
(He is blessed!)  
Above all blessings  
And hymns and praises and consolations  
That are uttered in the world,  
And all say amen!

May a great peace from heaven –  
And life! –  
Be upon us and upon all Israel  
And say all amen!

May He who makes peace in his High places  
Make peace upon us and upon all Israel,  
And say all amen!

## Jewish Funeral Prayer

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God full of mercy who dwells on high  
Grant perfect rest on the wings of Your  
Divine Presence In the lofty heights of the holy and pure  
who shine as the brightness of the heavens to  
the soul of (name of loved one) who has gone  
to his eternal rest as all his family and friends pray  
for the elevation of his soul. His resting place shall  
be in the Garden of Eden. Therefore, the  
Master of mercy will care for him under the  
protection of His wings for all time  
And bind his soul in the bond of everlasting life.  
God is his inheritance and he will rest in peace  
and let us say Amen.

El maley rachamim shochen bam'romim  
hamtzey menuchah nechonah al kanfey haschechinah  
bema'alot kedoshim ute'horim kezohar harakia  
me'irim umazhirim lenishmat shehalach  
le'olamo ba'avur shekol beney hamishpachah,  
yedidim umakirim mitpalelim le'iluy  
nishmato began eden tehey  
menuchato lachen ba'al harachamim  
yastireyhu beseter kenafav le'olamim veyitzror  
bitzror hachayim et nishmato  
Adonai hu nachalato Veyanuach  
beshalom al mishkavo  
Venomar amen.

## Don't Quit

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When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
rest, if you must, but don't you quit.  
Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
as everyone of us sometimes learns,  
and many a failure turns about  
when he might have won had he stuck it out,  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow --  
You may succeed with another blow.  
Success is failure turned inside out --  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far;  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit --  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

## **Bless This Little Child**

Lord, look down from heaven above  
And touch this special child with love,  
Protect and guide this little one  
Till each and every day is done.  
Remind us often that it's true,  
This little life is a gift from you.  
A miracle You've sent our way !  
Lord, bless this little child today.

## **Christ Have Mercy**

With the spirits of the righteous made perfect,  
give rest to the soul of Thy servant, O Saviour;  
and preserve it in that life of  
blessedness which is with thee,  
O thou who lovest mankind.  
In the place of Thy rest,  
O lord, where all thy Saints repose,  
give rest also to the soul of Thy servant for  
Thou only lovest mankind. Glory to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
Thou art our God, who descended into Hell,  
and loosed the bonds of those who were there,  
Thyself give rest also to the soul of  
Thy servant Now and ever unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

## **Days Without End**

GOD, Your days are without end,  
Your mercies beyond counting.  
Help us always to remember that  
life is short and the day of our death  
is known to You alone.  
May Your Holy Spirit lead us to live  
in holiness and justice all our days.  
Then, after serving You in the fellowship of  
Your Church, with strong faith, consoling hope,  
and perfect love for all, may we joyfully  
come to Your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

## Ashem Vohu Prayer

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God our Father, Your power brings us to birth,  
Your providence guides our lives, and by  
Your command we return to dust.  
Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,  
their lives change but do not end.  
I pray in hope for my family, relatives and friends,  
and for all the dead known to You alone.  
In company with Christ,  
Who died and now lives,  
may they rejoice in Your kingdom,  
where all our tears are wiped away.  
Unite us together again in one family,  
to sing Your praise forever and ever.  
Amen.

## Anima Christi

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Soul of Christ, sanctify me  
Body of Christ, save me  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me  
Water from Christ's side, wash me  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me  
O good Jesus, hear me  
Within Thy wounds hide me  
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee  
From the malicious enemy defend me  
In the hour of my death call me  
And bid me come unto Thee  
That I may praise Thee with Thy saints  
and with Thy angels  
Forever and ever...  
Amen.

## Afterglow

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I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one,  
I'd like to leave an afterglow of  
smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering  
softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times  
and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,  
to dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave  
When life is done.

## God Needed An Angel

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God needed an angel in Heaven  
To stand at the Savior's feet;  
His choice must be the rarest  
A lily pure and sweet.  
He gazed upon the mighty throng  
Then stopped and picked the best  
With Jesus she's [he's] now at rest.

## Not Forgotten But Loved

Your gentle face and patient smile.  
With sadness we recall  
You had a kindly word for each  
And died beloved by all.  
The voice is mute and stilled the heart  
That loved us well and true.  
Ah, bitter was the trial to part  
From one so good as you.  
You are not forgotten loved one  
Nor will you ever be  
As long as life and memory last  
We will remember thee.  
We miss you now, our hearts are sore,  
As time goes by we miss you more,  
Your loving smile, your gentle face  
No one can fill your vacant place.

## I Am Waiting

When I must leave you For a little while  
Please do not grieve And hug your sorrow to you  
Through the years, But start out bravely  
With a gallant smile; And for my sake  
And in my name Live on and do  
All things the same. Feed not your loneliness  
On empty days,  
But fill each waking hour In useful ways  
Reach out your hand In comfort and in cheer  
And I in turn will comfort you And hold you near;  
And never, never Be afraid to die,  
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

## May You Walk in Sunshine

May you always walk in sunshine and  
God's love around you flow,  
for the happiness you gave us,  
no one will ever know,  
it broke our hearts to lose you,  
but you did not go alone,  
a part of us went with you,  
the day God called you home.  
A million times we've needed you.  
A million times we've cried.  
If love could only have saved you.  
You never would have died.  
The Lord be with you  
And may you rest in peace. Amen.