
Resources for Prayers with the Sick or Dying and for Funeral Services in Simple English – Materiaalia rukoushetkiin sairaan tai kuolevan luona ja hautajaisiin yksinkertaisella englannin kielellä

Contents – Sisällys

Prayer with a sick or dying person – Rukoushetki sairaan tai kuolevan luona	2
The Lord’s supper in a home or hospital – Ehtoollinen sairaan luona	8
Funeral service – Hautaan siunaaminen	15
Service of prayer beside an open grave or internment of an urn – Rukoushetki läheisen haudalla tai uurnan lasku	23
Service of prayer when a loved one has died or been buried in a far away place or on the anniversary of a death – Rukoushetki läheisen kuoltua, muualle haudatun läheisen muistohetkessä tai kuoleman muistopäivänä.....	28



Prayer with a sick or dying person – Rukoushetki sairaan tai kuolevan luona

This order for prayer is to be used by request of the patient, for example in a hospital room. This moment of prayer may be led by a pastor, another person from a Christian community, someone from the hospital, or one of the patient's family members. In preparation, you may cover a table with a white cloth and place on it a Bible, a cross and a candle. You may use an LED candle if necessary.

P: Pastor

A: All

R: Reader



1 Hymn / Virsi

Optional. A hymn may be sung, preferably one that is known to the sick or dying person.

2 Introduction / Johdanto

P: In the name of the Father,
and the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit.
May the peace of Christ be with you all.

A: Amen.

3 The Bible Reading / Raamatun teksti

One or more of these passages may be read.

Philippians 4:6–7

Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. And because you belong to Christ Jesus, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds.

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

2 Corinthians 1:3–4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Father who is full of mercy, the God of all comfort. He comforts us every time we have trouble so that when others have trouble, we can comfort them with the same comfort God gives us.

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Romans 8:38–39

Yes, I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love –not death, life, angels, or ruling spirits. I am sure that nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us or nothing below us – nothing in the whole created world – will ever be able to separate us from the love God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4 Prayers / Rukous

There are two sets: 4a and 4b are for praying together with a sick person; 4c and 4d are for praying for a dying person. Choose the most appropriate prayer or prayers.

4a Blessing for a sick person / Siunaus sairastavalle

You may put your hand on the head of the patient and say:

1

The assurance of God's grace / Jumalan armon vakuutus

P: In holy baptism, you have become a child of our loving God.

He promised to be with you all the days of your life.
 He says, “My friend, be of good courage. Your sins have been forgiven.”
 May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

A: Amen.

2

You who have lost your sight and who cannot see the light of the sun,
 the beauty of the world, or the faces of your loved ones:
 The Lord is with you.
 You who have lost your hearing and cannot hear the voices around you:
 The Lord is with you.
 You who have become helpless and cannot get up
 from your bed while others go in and out of the room:
 The Lord is with you.
 You who have lost your understanding of what is happening around
 you or have become too weak to make contact with us:
 The Lord is with you.
 You who have pain and suffering:
 The Lord is with you.
 You who are in your final struggle:
 The Lord is with you.
 You who are near the hour of death:
 The Lord is with you.
 In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 Amen.

4b Prayers for a sick person / Rukouksia sairaan puolesta

1

Father, your only Son took upon himself the sufferings of all people.
 He is with us in our sickness.
 Look upon N.
 In the midst of illness and pain, may Christ,
 who heals both body and soul,
 comfort him/her/them.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

2

Lord and Father, almighty and eternal God,
 you give us strength and support in our frailty:
 turn with kindness toward [your servant] N (name).
 Free him/her/them from all illness and restore him/her/them to health.
 Let him/her/them know your goodness and mercy and
 gratefully bless your holy name.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

3

Merciful God,

we trust you at this time.

It is through your power that we were created.

Thank you for all the seasons of life.

We ask you today to touch NN with your healing Spirit.

Let the warmth of your love pass through his/her/their body
and give him/her/them again your gift, his/her/their health.

And, whether my days be short or long,

let me serve you in all the days I have left in this world.

4c Assurance of Grace for a dying patient / Armon vakuutus kuolevalle

P: God [whose love is infinite,
loves, liberates, and forgives us.
In the name of Jesus.

A: Amen.

P: Jesus says:
“My friend, have no fear. Your sins have been forgiven.”
At the end of your time, you may trust yourself to the hands of your Creator.
May the holy angels carry you to heaven. May you have eternal peace and
light.

OR

P: In the name of the Father, (+) and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

I commend you, my dear brother/sister, to Almighty God, your Creator.
May you return to him who formed you from the dust of the earth.
[May the angels and all the saints come to meet you as you leave this life.]
May Christ, who was crucified for you, bring you freedom and peace.
May Christ, who died for you, admit you into his garden of paradise.
May Christ, the true Shepherd, acknowledge you as one of his flock.
May he forgive all your sins and set you among those he has chosen.
Amen.

4d Commending a person into God’s hands / Kuolevan saattaminen Jumalan käsiin

P: We have come together for prayer and to entrust NN’s soul to God,
who is faithful and compassionate.

Let us commend our NN to the mercy of God.

The leader and others who are present may lay a hand on the head of the dying person as the leader says one or more of the following. The leader may also trace a cross on the person's forehead as a reminder of the gift of baptism.

P: NN, child of God,
go forth in the name of God, the Father Almighty, who created you;
in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who saved you;
in the name of the Holy Spirit, who was poured out upon you.
May you rest in peace and dwell forever in the paradise of God.
Amen.

OR

Loving God, source and destiny of all life,
we ask for your gentle and comforting presence with NN
as he/she/they struggle with illness and coming death.
We pray that you will give him/her/them courage
and faith in your promises.
Be near his/her/their family in their fear and confusion and sorrow.

5 Lord's Prayer / Isä meidän

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

6 The Blessing / Siunaus

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
In the name of the Father,
and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

OR

P: May Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

A: Amen

7 Hymn / Virsi tai laulu

Optional

The Lord's supper in a home or hospital – Ehtoollinen sairaan luona

This abbreviated order for the Eucharist is meant to be used when a pastor visits Christians who are ill and unable to attend public worship. Holy communion may be celebrated in a home, a hospital room or any other suitable place. In preparation for the Eucharist, it is advisable for the pastor to first visit the patient for a pastoral conversation. When the Lord's Supper is delivered to someone who is ill, other Christians who are with the patient may also take part. The dishes used for communion are set on a table covered with a white cloth. A cross or crucifix may also be put on the table, and a candle may be lit. If the person is very sick, the order may be shortened so that it only contains a hymn or a song, confession and forgiveness, gospel, the words of institution, the Lord's prayer and the blessing. It is advisable to have a pastoral conversation with the patient before the Eucharist.

P: Pastor

A: All

R: Reader



1 Hymn / Virsi

Optional

2 Invocation and greeting / Alkutervehdys

The invocation and greeting may be spoken or sung.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

3 Introductory words / Johdantosanat

The pastor speaks in his/her own words or says these words:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, “When two or three gather in my name, I am there with them.” Today, we believe in this promise. When we confess our sins, Christ shows us mercy. He is faithful and forgiving, cleansing our hearts. We rely on His mercy and grace and confess our sins together.

4 Confession and forgiveness / Synnintunnustus ja anteeksianto

If there is more than one communicant, the confession resembles confession in public worship. When a communicant makes confession privately to the pastor, the pastor must follow the guidelines specified in the order for private confession, including strict confidentiality.

Confession

The communicant may make a confession in his/her/their own words. Alternatively, the pastor may read one of the following confessions, either together with the communicant or on his/her/their behalf.

1

God, our heavenly Father, I have sinned in my thoughts and words, by what I have done and left undone. [I confess] My sins trouble me deeply. I have also sinned without knowing it. I am sorry for it all, and I pray: Show me mercy, forgive my sins, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

2

Dear heavenly Father, you see me and my whole life, and yet you love me. I come before you just as I am. God, receive me in your goodness and mercy and forgive my sins.

Declaration of forgiveness (Absolution)

3

Jesus said to his disciples, “When you forgive someone’s sins, they are forgiven.” As a servant of Jesus Christ, I declare that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit.

4

Jesus says, “Do not be afraid, my friend, your sins are forgiven.” [As his servant, I convey

to you forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.] May the almighty God forgive us our sins and lead us to eternal life.

A: Amen

5 Scripture reading / Raamatunluku

Optional. One or several of the following passages is read. Other Bible verses suited to the occasion or the time of the church year may also be read.

Psalm 73:23–26

Isaiah 43:1–3a

Hebrews 4:14–16

Matthew 11:28–30 (Jesus says, “Come to me, all..”)

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

6 Some words to the people present (speech) /

Jotain sanoja läsnä oleville ihmisille (puhe)

Optional

7 Creed / Uskontunnustus

Optional

A: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

8 Prayers of intercession / Esirukous

Optional. You may use one of the prayers below or your own words.

P: Let us pray.

1

Living, almighty God, we bring our whole life before you.

Today we pray especially for NN. Bless, strengthen and comfort him/her/them.

We remember the sick, suffering, and vulnerable, and are asking for strength for those who are caring for them.

We think of our family and dear ones. We pray for all those we love.

We pray for the church and its servants.

We thank you for the hope of eternal life, which you have given to us in your Son Jesus Christ.

Trusting in him, we leave ourselves, one another, and our whole life in your care.

2

Almighty God, dear heavenly Father, You know our weakness. You alone can save us. Your Spirit gives life. Let it strengthen NN. Help him/her/them trust you day by day, also when in distress. Thank you that we remain safe in your hands. Hear us [as we pray] in the name of your Son Jesus Christ.

3

Almighty God, we bring our whole life to you.

We remember our family and relatives, friends, and loved ones. Give them your peace. We pray for healing and comfort for all who are ill, suffering and helpless. Give strength to those who care for them. We are grateful for the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. We entrust ourselves, one another, and our whole life into your care.

A: Amen.

9 Offertory hymn / Uhrivirsi

The bread and wine are made ready during the hymn. There could be a moment of silence instead of a hymn.

10 Eucharistic prayer / Rukous ja asetussanat

The prayer can be started with the exhortation, "Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God."

P: O holy God, you love all people. That is why you sent Jesus to us. He healed many who were ill. He looked for those who were lost. He cared for all who came to him. He loved us so much that he gave his life for us.

On the night when he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread and gave thanks (+). He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples. He said, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup and gave thanks (+). He said, “Drink from it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood. It is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink from it, do this in remembrance of me.”

Heavenly Father, we rejoice for all that Jesus has done for us. Thank you for him joining us at this meal. Bless us with your Holy Spirit. Let us one day praise you in your heavenly kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory belong to you, Almighty Father, now and forever.

A: Amen.

11 Lord's prayer / Isä meidän

The Lord's prayer is recited all together.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

12 Greeting of peace / Rauhan tervehdys

The greeting is spoken.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

13 Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) / Jumalan Karitsa

Optional. The pastor may break the bread during the Agnus Dei. The Agnus Dei may be said or sung.

A: Lamb of God, you bear the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you bear the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you bear the sin of the world; give us peace.

14 Communion / Ehtoollisen vietto

Distribution

When giving bread, the pastor says:

The body of Christ, given for you.

When giving wine, the pastor says:

The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

Words to conclude the meal

P: We have received the Lord Jesus Christ.
May he protect and keep us until eternal life.

A: Amen.

OR

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep our spirit, soul and body safe until eternal life.

A: Amen.

15 Prayer of thanksgiving / Kiitosrukous

P: Let us pray.

God, our Father, we thank you for feeding us at your table. Make us strong in faith, hope, and patience. Thank you for holding us close to you, even when we are weak. Keep us in your hands in life and death. Hear us in Jesus's name.

A: Amen.

16 Benediction / Siinaus

The benediction may be spoken or sung.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

OR

P: Almighty God, Father (+), Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

17 Hymn / Virsi

Optional

Funeral service – Hautaan siunaaminen

A funeral service is led by a pastor in a church or a chapel, at an open grave or at the home of the deceased: whatever the relatives agree upon with the pastor.

If the funeral service is held in a church or chapel, an Easter candle may be lit for the service. Before the funeral, the pastor should meet with the relatives of the deceased for a discussion. If invited by the relatives, the pastor should, if possible, also be with them as they gather after the service.

At the funeral of a stillborn baby or a person whose remains are missing, this order is used as applicable. In selecting music, one should remember that a Christian funeral is an occasion of worship. If a church musician (kanttori) participates in the funeral, he/she is responsible for the music and should be consulted.

Flowers are usually used as part of a farewell to the deceased. Flowers can be laid by the coffin either at the beginning of the service or after the final hymn. If the first option is selected, then an additional hymn or some other music may come before the flowers are laid.

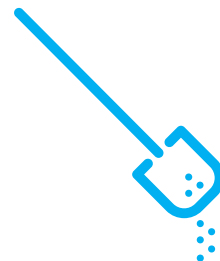
When the body of the deceased is taken to the grave in a procession, a cross may be carried at the head of the procession. A hymn may be sung while walking to the grave.

In matters of detail, local burial customs should be observed.

P: Pastor

A: All

R: Reader



1 Hymn / Virsi

An instrumental prelude or some other suitable music may precede the hymn. If flowers are to be laid by the coffin at the beginning of the service, it may be done after the organ prelude and before the hymn.

2 Blessing and greeting / Johdanto

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Optional

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And with your spirit.

3 Introductory words /Johdantosanat

You may use these words or speak freely.

P: Dear family [and friends] of NN,
welcome to XX chapel.
We have come together here to remember NN and to give thanks for
his/her/their life.
We now commend NN into God’s merciful hands.
God is our comfort and strength both in life and death.
We believe that God will raise us/NN up from the dead.
This gives us hope and we can now be at peace.

4 Confession and forgiveness / Rippi ja anteeksianto

Optional. The confession prayer may be said unison. Kneeling is also a possibility. The confession may include silent personal prayer preceded by an exhortative or introductory phrase such as “Hear my/our silent confession.”

P/A: Holy God, we confess before you that we have sinned
in thoughts and words,
in what we have done and left undone.
Remember us in your merciful goodness.
You know how we have broken your commands,
but forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Forgiveness

P: May the almighty God forgive us our sins
and lead us to eternal life.

A: Amen.

5 Psalm / Psalmi

Optional. You may use one of these psalms or choose another.

Antiphon

Grant him/her/them rest eternal, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon him/her/them.

Psalm

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd.
I will always have everything I need.
He gives me green pastures to lie in.
He leads me by calm pools of water.
He restores my strength.
He leads me on right paths to show that he is good.
Even if I walk through a valley as dark as the grave,
I will not be afraid of any danger, because you are with me.
Your rod and staff comfort me.
You prepared a meal for me in front of my enemies.
You welcomed me as an honoured guest.
My cup is full and spilling over.
Your goodness and mercy will be with me all my life,
and I will live in the Lord's house a long, long time.

OR

Psalm 39:4–5, 7, 12

Lord, tell me, what will happen to me now?
Tell me, how long will I live?
Let me know how short my life really is.
You gave me only a short life.
Compared to you, my whole life is nothing.
The life of every human is like a cloud that quickly disappears.
So, Lord, what hope do I have?
You are my hope!
Lord, hear my prayer!
Listen to the words I cry to you.
Look at my tears.
I am only a traveller passing through this life with you.
Like all my ancestors, I will live here only a short time.

OR

Psalm 90:1–6, 12

My Lord, you have been our home forever and ever.
You were God before the mountains were born,
before the earth and the world were made.
You have always been and will always be God!
You bring people into this world,
and you change them into dust again.
To you, a thousand years is like yesterday,
like a few hours in the night.
Our life is like a dream that ends when morning comes.

We are like grass that grows and looks so fresh in the morning,
but in the evening it is dry and dying.
Teach us how short our lives are
so that we can become wise.

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning and is now and always,
from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.

6 Prayer / Rukous

Another prayer may also be used. The call to prayer may be followed by a moment of silent prayer.

P: Let us pray.

1.

Almighty God, your Son, Jesus Christ, has defeated death and opened the way to eternal life. Now comfort us in our grief/sadness. Help us understand that not even death can stop Christ from loving us.

2.

Jesus Christ, you were born as a human being like one of us. You lived a human life and died a human death. You rose up from the dead. That is why we believe that the dead will be raised to life again. We give NN over into your hands. Give us comfort in our sadness. Help us. You won a victory over death and give us new life. Therefore, we praise you, Jesus Christ.

3

God of grace and loving kindness,
give eternal rest to our brother/sister NN,
who has departed from this life.
Light up his/her/their last journey with your glory.
Let us remember him/her/them with thankful hearts today.
May your holy angels carry him/her/them
to the company of those who have gone before him/her/them.
May he/she/they receive peace with you in Paradise.
Let the death and prayers of your Son bring her/him/them to safety.
Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, your dear Son.

7 Scripture reading / Raamatun lukukappale

One or more Bible passages may be read. You may use these passages or other suitable passages. Family and friends are welcome to read passages.

Romans 8:31–35, 37–39

So what should we say about this? If God is for us, no one can stand against us. And God is with us. He even let his own Son suffer for us. God gave his Son for all of us. So now with Jesus, God will surely give us all things. Who can accuse the people God has

chosen? No one! God is the one who makes them right. Who can say that God's people are guilty? No one! Christ Jesus died for us, but that is not all. He was also raised from death. And now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us.

Can anything separate us from Christ's love? Can trouble or problems or persecution separate us from his love? If we have no food or clothes or face danger or even death, will that separate us from his love? But in all these troubles we have complete victory through God, who has shown his love for us.

Yes, I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love – not death, life, angels, or ruling spirits. I am sure that nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us or nothing below us – nothing in the whole created world – will ever be able to separate us from the love God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:1–5

We know that our body – the tent we live in here on earth – will be destroyed. But when that happens, God will have a home for us to live in. It will not be the kind of home people build here. It will be a home in heaven that will continue forever. But now we are tired of this body. We want God to give us our heavenly home. It will clothe us and we will not be naked. While we live in this tent, we have burdens and so we complain. I don't mean that we want to remove this tent, but we want to be clothed with our heavenly home. Then this body that dies will be covered with life. This is what God himself made us for. And he has given us the Spirit as the first payment to guarantee the life to come.

John 14:1–6

Jesus said, "Don't be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you with me, so that you can be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me."

8 Sermon or speech

9 Creed

The use of the Creed is optional. All stand for the creed.

A: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.

10 The words of the committal / Siunaussanat

The committal may also take place at the grave.

P: Believing in the risen Jesus Christ,
 we stand to commit NN (full name) into the hands of God.

OR

P: In faith in the triune God,
 we commit NN (full name) in His hands to wait for the day of resurrection.

The pastor then throws or pours sand three times on the coffin (a sign of the cross may be drawn with the sand) and says:

NN (given name[s]), you were formed from soil of the earth,
 and soil you will become again. Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
 will raise you on the last day.

OR

NN (given name[s]), you are dust of the earth.
 Dust you will become again.
 Jesus Christ, our Saviour, will wake you up on the last day.

OR

In this life, the seed lives only for a short time.
 In eternity it will flourish forever.
 Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life.

OR

At the funeral of a stillborn baby or a small child:
 [NN (given name[s], if the child had any),]
 God, our Father, has created you.
 You may rest in his arms.
 Jesus Christ, our Saviour, will raise you up on the last day.

11 Hymn or other music / Virsi tai muuta musiikkia

Optional

12 Prayer / Rukous

P: Let us pray.

1

Dear God, we give NN over into your hands. Have mercy on him/her/them. Give NN life forever. Thank you for our life together. We are sad. But we trust in you.

We pray: Help us and comfort us. Be close to us in our sadness. Take away our fear and our guilt. Help us trust that you help us and give us strength. God, give us the joy of Easter and the hope that the dead will rise to life again. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

2

Holy and powerful God,
By the death and burial of Jesus, you have destroyed the power of death. You have made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our sister's/brother's body that we now lay to rest. Lead her/him/them in the company of all your saints, and on the last day let him/her/them rise up to be with all the faithful. Let her/him/them share in the everlasting joy and peace that Christ our Lord brought through his rising from the dead. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

13 The Lord's Prayer / Isä meidän

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

14 The Blessing / Siunaus

P: May the Almighty and merciful God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us all.

A: Amen.

OR

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
In the name of the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

15 Hymn or other music / Virsi tai muuta musiikkia

16 Prayer at the grave

Optional

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, we lay NN to rest in your gentle arms. We have nothing to fear because you are with us. Amen.

Service of prayer beside an open grave or internment of an urn – Rukoushetki läheisen haudalla tai uurnan lasku

This order is used when the remains of the deceased have been transported to some other location. This order may also be used when an urn is interred, and parts of this order can also be used for the funeral of a person whose remains are missing.

This service may be led by a pastor, another church worker or a layperson. A candle may be lit during the service.

P: Pastor

A: All

R: Reader



1 Hymn / Virsi

2 Introduction / Johdanto

P/R: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen

3 Introductory words / Johdantosanat

Some examples are given here, but you are free to use your own words.

P/R: Dear friends. The grave reminds us that life is short, but God gives us the promise of life and resurrection. Christ says, “I am the one who lives. I was dead, but look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” (Rev. 1:18)

OR

P/R: Dear friends. The grave reminds us that life is short, but God gives us the promise of life and resurrection. It says in the Bible, “I know that there is someone to defend me and that he lives! And in the end, he will stand here on earth and defend me.” (Job 19:25)

OR

Dear friends, Jesus says: “I am the resurrection and the life.” He died and was laid in a grave. He can comfort those who stand beside a grave in their sorrow. Now that NN is placed in his/her/their grave, we pray that NN/he/she/they can rest in peace.

4 Psalm / Psalmi

Optional. Two alternatives are given below, but another psalm may be used instead. Instead of a psalm, a hymn may be sung at this point.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd.

I will always have everything I need.

He gives me green pastures to lie in.

He leads me by calm pools of water.

He restores my strength.

He leads me on right paths to show that he is good.

Even if I walk through a valley as dark as the grave,

I will not be afraid of any danger, because you are with me.

Your rod and staff comfort me.

You prepared a meal for me in front of my enemies.

You welcomed me as an honoured guest.

My cup is full and spilling over.

Your goodness and mercy will be with me all my life,

and I will live in the Lord’s house a long, long time.

OR

Psalm 73:23–26

But I am always with you.

You hold my hand.

You lead me and give me good advice,
and later you will lead me to glory.

In heaven, God, I have only you.

And if I am with you, what on earth could I want?

Maybe my mind and body will become weak,
but God is my source of strength.

He is mine forever!

Gloria Patri

Optional

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

As it was in the beginning and is now and always,
from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

4 Scripture reading / Raamatun lukukappale

One or more of the listed passages is read. Other appropriate passages may also be read, especially ones that follow the time of the liturgical calendar. Reading may be followed by a moment of silent meditation.

1 Corinthians 15:44–49

There is a physical body. So there is also a spiritual body. As the Scriptures say, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam is a life-giving spirit. The spiritual man did not come first. It was the physical man that came first; then came the spiritual. The first man came from the dust of the earth. The second man came from heaven. All people belong to the earth. They are like that first man of earth. But those who belong to heaven are like that man of heaven. We were made like that man of earth, so we will also be made like that man of heaven.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

That is why we never give up. Our physical body is becoming older and weaker, but our spirit inside us is made new every day. We have small troubles for a while now, but these troubles are helping us gain an eternal glory. That eternal glory is much greater than our troubles. So we think about what we cannot see, not what we see. What we see lasts only a short time, and what we cannot see will last forever.

2 Corinthians 5:1–5

We know that our body – the tent we live in here on earth – will be destroyed. But when that happens, God will have a home for us to live in. It will not be the kind of home people build here. It will be a home in heaven that will continue forever. But now we are tired of this body. We want God to give us our heavenly home. It will clothe us and we will not be naked. While we live in this tent, we have burdens and so we complain. I don’t mean that we want to remove this tent, but we want to be clothed with our heavenly

home. Then this body that dies will be covered with life. This is what God himself made us for. And he has given us the Spirit as the first payment to guarantee the life to come.

Matthew 27:57–60

That evening a rich man named Joseph came to Jerusalem. He was a follower of Jesus from the town of Arimathea. He went to Pilate and asked to have Jesus's body. Pilate gave orders for the soldiers to give Jesus's body to him. Then Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a new linen cloth. He put Jesus's body in a new tomb that he had dug in a wall of rock. Then he closed the tomb by rolling a very large stone to cover the entrance. After he did this, he went away.

5 Response / Vastaus

Optional. Those present may, for example, sing a hymn or suitable spiritual song.

6 Sermon or speech / Puhe tai saarna

7 Prayers / Rukoukset

Use the prayer below or your own words.

P/R: Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, we leave our beloved NN in your caring hands. We thank you for the years we shared and all that he/she/they meant to us. We have laid his/her/their body/ashes to rest to wait for the dawn of resurrection and new creation.

Our Saviour died and was buried, and so he made our grave to be a holy place of rest. You, O God, woke him up from the dead, conquered death and opened up heaven to those who believe.

God, you know the longing of our hearts. In your word you have promised to hear our every sigh. [Trusting in your promise we ask you to hear our silent prayers.

(moment of silence)

Jesus Christ, our Saviour. We lift up our eyes to you. Have mercy on us and fill us with a living hope. Do not forsake us; lead us to resurrection and eternal life.

A: Amen.

Lord's prayer / Isä meidän

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

8 Blessing / Siunaus

P/R: May the Almighty and gracious God,
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, give us his blessing.

A: Amen.

OR

P/R: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
In the name of the Father,
and the (B) Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

9 Hymn or other concluding music

Optional

Service of prayer when a loved one has died or been buried in a far away place or on the anniversary of a death – Rukoushetki läheisen kuoltua, muualle haudatun läheisen muistohetkessä tai kuoleman muistopäivänä

This order may be used when a family member or friend has died in another country or on the anniversary of a death of a loved one. Parts of it may be used in times of crisis.

The service should be prepared ahead of time together with the participants or the family members. The service may be led by a pastor or a layperson. A candle may be lit during the service. If it is the wish of the family or participants, pictures of the deceased may be displayed on a table.

P: Pastor

A: All

R: Reader



1 Hymn / Virsi

Optional

2 Introduction / Johdanto

P/R: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

3 Introductory words / Johdantosanat

Use the words below or your own.

Dear friends of NN, we have come together to remember NN, to thank God for his/her/their life and to mourn his/her/their death. Jesus calls those who are tired and sad to come to him. He says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." NN was laid to rest [the place and maybe the time]. Now Jesus also calls you to come to him for a moment of rest and prayer. [Other information may be given here.]

OR

Dear friends, NN has left this world. Death confuses us. It is difficult to understand what has happened. Sorrow fills our hearts. We search for strength and comfort in God's word, in prayer and with this community.

OR (If a long time has passed)

Dear friends, we have come together to share our sorrow for the death of NN. Today we remember his/her/their life and give thanks for it. We remember all the good things that came to us through his/her/their life. We have come together to share our memories of NN, to keep his/her/their memory alive in our community/family. We have come together to pray for him/her/them and for us as well, so that we may have the strength to carry on.

4 Psalm / Psalmi

Optional

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd.

I will always have everything I need.

He gives me green pastures to lie in.

He leads me by calm pools of water.

He restores my strength.

He leads me on right paths to show that he is good.

Even if I walk through a valley as dark as the grave,

I will not be afraid of any danger, because you are with me.

Your rod and staff comfort me.

You prepared a meal for me in front of my enemies.

You welcomed me as an honoured guest.

My cup is full and spilling over.
Your goodness and mercy will be with me all my life,
and I will live in the Lord's house a long, long time.

OR

Psalm 73:23–26
But I am always with you.
You hold my hand.
You lead me and give me good advice,
and later you will lead me to glory.
In heaven, God, I have only you.
And if I am with you, what on earth could I want?
Maybe my mind and body will become weak,
but God is my source of strength.
He is mine forever!

OR

Psalm 103:14–18
He knows all about us.
He knows we are made from dust.
He knows our lives are short, that they are like grass.
He knows we are like a little wildflower that grows so quickly,
but when the hot wind blows, it dies.
Soon, you cannot even see where the flower was.
But the Lord has always loved his followers,
and he will continue to love them forever and ever!
He will be good to all their descendants,
to those who are faithful to his agreement
and who remember to obey his commands.

Glory to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.

4 Bible Reading / Raamatun lukukappale

One or more Bible passages are read. You may also use other suitable Bible passages.
The Bible reading may be followed by a moment of silent meditation.

Ecclesiastes 12: [6–] 7
[Remember your Creator while you are young,
before the silver rope snaps and the golden bowl is crushed
like a jar broken at the well,
like a stone cover on a well that breaks and falls in.]
Your body came from the earth.
And when you die, it will return to the earth.

But your spirit came from God,
and when you die, it will return to him.

Romans 8:38–39

(The apostle Paul writes to the Romans:) I am sure that nothing can separate us from God’s love – not death, life, angels, or ruling spirits. I am sure that nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us or nothing below us – nothing in the whole created world – will ever be able to separate us from the love God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:1–5

We know that our body – the tent we live in here on earth – will be destroyed. But when that happens, God will have a home for us to live in. It will not be the kind of home people build here. It will be a home in heaven that will continue forever. But now we are tired of this body. We want God to give us our heavenly home. It will clothe us and we will not be naked. While we live in this tent, we have burdens and so we complain. I don’t mean that we want to remove this tent, but we want to be clothed with our heavenly home. Then this body that dies will be covered with life. This is what God himself made us for. And he has given us the Spirit as the first payment to guarantee the life to come.

Revelation 1:17–18

When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He put his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the one who lives. I was dead, but look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

John 11:25–26

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection. I am life. Everyone who believes in me will have life, even if they die. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never really die.”

John 14:1–4

Jesus says, “Don’t be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you with me, so that you can be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

5 Sermon or speech / Saarna tai puhe

6 Hymn or other music / Virsi tai muuta musiikkia

Optional

7 Prayers / Rukous

You may use the prayer(s) below or use your own words.

P/R: Let us pray

1

Almighty God, dear heavenly Father,
Death has come here and our lives are changed. NN has reached the end of his/her/their journey. We thank you for all the good things in his/her/their

life and all the blessings we received through him. We thank you for the journey we could travel together. Let us keep his/her/their memory in our hearts forever. We leave NN in your hands and entrust him/her/them to your eternal grace.

God, you see our hearts and thoughts. Be near us and teach us to trust that you will take care of us. Strengthen our faith that you are greater than any sorrow. Thank you for letting us rest in your presence in any situation. Lead us so that we will not be left alone in sorrow. Thank you for those who support us and listen to us. Give us courage and strength for all the tasks waiting for us. Make us loving and sensitive to those near us in this time of sorrow.

God, your word ensures us that you know what we need, even when we don't have the words to say it. Your ears hear even our silent sighs. Trusting in this promise, we ask you now to hear our silent prayers.

(moment of silence)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of life and the moments of joy and sorrow. In your hands, you hold all the phases of our lives. We remain surrounded by your love and grace. Help us turn to Christ, the conqueror of death, so that we may rise to eternal life with those we love. Hear our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son.

2

God, our Father, this night we place all our memories of NN before you: all the good, all the bad, all the joyful, and all that bring us sorrow. Let these memories connect us to our dear NN like a bridge. Let the water of tears wash away all bitterness and let them turn into thanks for the time we shared.

Dear God, we pray that you strengthen our faith in life everlasting. Give us trust that there is a place where things that were broken are fixed and things that were lost are found again, where there is rest for the weary and joy for the sad, and that one day we may be reunited with NN in your heavenly home.

Grant eternal rest to NN, O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon him/her/them. May he/she/they rest in peace.

3

Holy, living God,
thank you that we may leave NN in your hands.
Let eternal light shine on him/her/them.
Give peace to our hearts.
Surround us with mercy and grace.
This we pray in the name of your Son Jesus Christ.

A: Amen

Service of prayer when a loved one has died or been buried in a far away place or on the anniversary of a death –
Rukoushetki läheisen kuoltua, muualle haudatun läheisen muistohetkessä tai kuoleman muistopäivänä

8 Lord's Prayer / Isä meidän

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

The sign of cross and covering of the face of the deceased

Optional. This order is used immediately after death.

P/R: May God give you eternal peace.
 May His light shine upon you always.

The priest or reader makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the deceased and says:

May the holy angels lead you into everlasting life.

The priest or reader may cover the face of the deceased with a cloth or ask one of the people present to do it.

8 Blessing / Siunaus

P: May the almighty and merciful God,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us all.

A: Amen.

OR

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you,
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
 and give you peace.
 In the name of the Father,
 and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

9 Hymn or other music / Virsi tai muuta musiikkia

Optional