

MINISTRY TO THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Preparation for Death

This commendation may be led by the priest or by any other Christian person, if possible with the family and friends of the dying person. All or part of the order may be used.

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Who can separate us from the love of Christ? *Romans 8: 35*

We shall always be with the Lord. *1 Thessalonians 4: 17*

Come, you that are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you. *Matthew 25: 34*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. *Psalms 31: 5*

Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. *Acts 7: 59*

READING

Psalms 23 (page 616 or 468)

or

Psalms 121 (page 743)

or

John 14: 1-7,27

or

Romans 8: 31-35,37-39

Other readings may be chosen from those on page 453.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

The commendation may be accompanied by making the sign of the cross on the forehead of the dying person, recalling his or her baptism into Christ.

One of the following is used:

Almighty God,

with whom do live the spirits of those who depart in the Lord:

We humbly commend the soul of your servant ...

our dear *brother* into your hands

as into the hands of a faithful creator and most merciful Saviour.

Forgive *him* all *his* sins and receive *him* to yourself;

through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

or

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
remember your last hour
when on the cross you gave up your spirit to the Father.
Set your passion, cross and death
between your judgment and us
as we entrust to you.

We pray you to free us all from the pains of death
and from the wounds of sin;
that death may be the gate to life
and to unending fellowship with you;
for you are the resurrection and the life,
and to you be the glory for ever. **Amen.**

or

.... our companion in faith,
the Lord who gave you to us is taking you to himself.
He who died for you and rose again from death
is calling you to enjoy the peace of the heavenly city
in which there is neither sorrow nor pain,
and where weakness is transformed into strength.
He is calling you to see him face to face
that you may be made like him for ever.
He comes to welcome you with angels and archangels
and all his faithful people,
that you may know in its fulness the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
Enter into the joy of your Lord and give glory to him,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

or

Go forth upon your journey from this world, O Christian soul,
in the name of God the Father almighty who created you;
in the name of Jesus Christ who suffered death for you;
in the name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you;
in communion with the blessed saints,
and aided by angels and archangels
and all the armies of the heavenly host.
May your rest this day be in peace
and your dwelling place in the heavenly Jerusalem. **Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS *The Song of Simeon*

- 1 Lord, now you let your servant go in peace, ■
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ■
which you have prepared in the sight of every people.
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations ■
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, ■
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, ■
and shall be for ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BLESSING

when a priest is present

God give you grace
to share the inheritance of his saints in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

or

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

